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# BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES.

—A BRIEF—

### DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET

—ISSUED BY THE—

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BRITISH COLUMBIA.



THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

VICTORIA, B. C. :

Printed by RICHARD WOLFENDEN, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

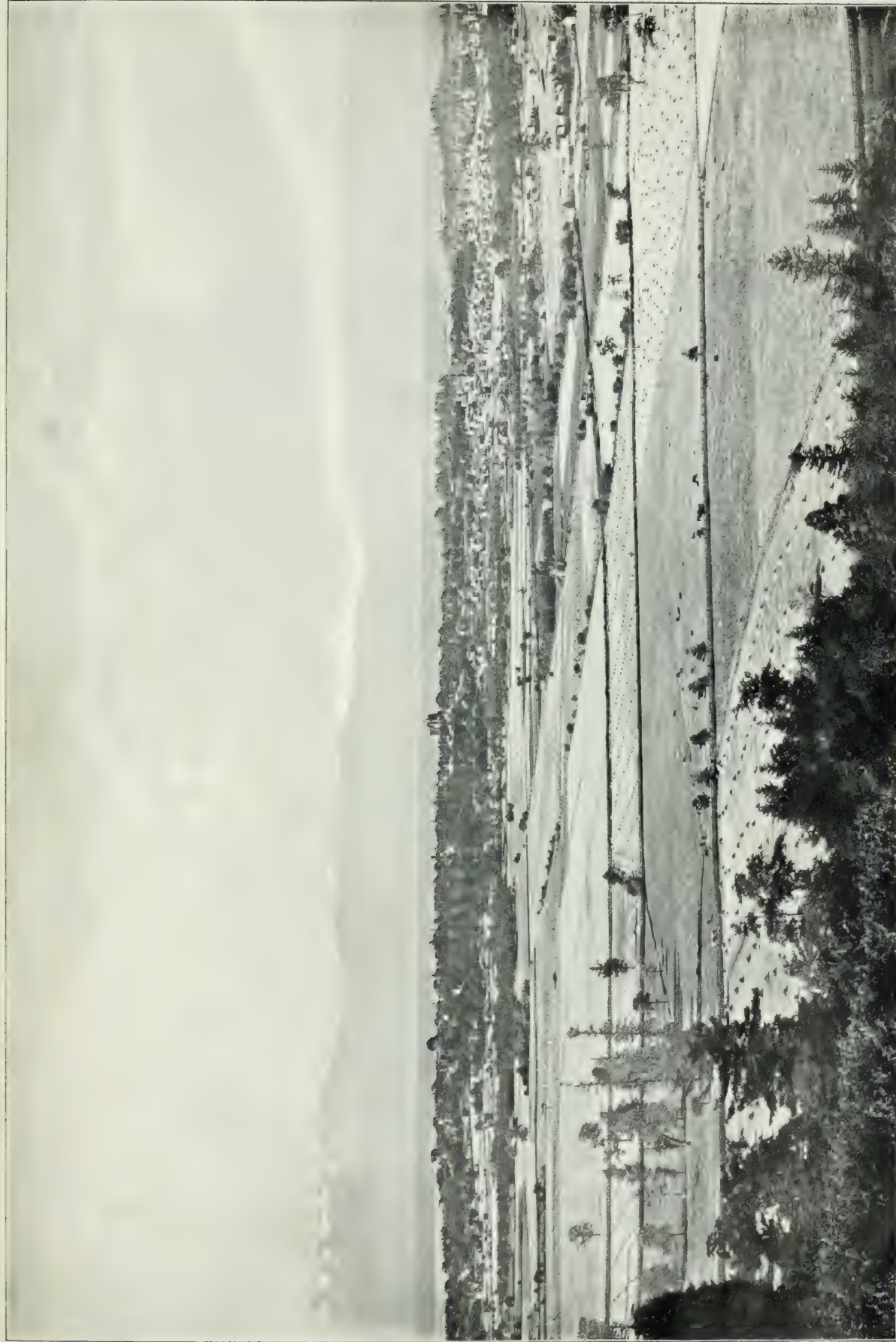
1902.











VICINITY OF VICTORIA—OLYMPIAN RANGE IN DISTANCE.





BRANDING ROUND-UP OF CATTLE, NICOLA.

# BRITISH COLUMBIA

—AND ITS

# AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES.

—A BRIEF

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1901.





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
VICTORIA, November 18th, 1901.

*Hon. J. D. Prentice,*  
*Minister of Agriculture, Victoria, B. C.*

SIR :

I have the honour of presenting herewith a pamphlet descriptive of the Province, principally in relation to its agricultural capabilities and possibilities. This information is prepared at the instance of the Agent-General, and is intended for distribution from his office.

It is, of course, impossible in a short description, such as this pamphlet contains, to enter into many of the details which are so necessary to intending immigrants. For such information I must refer to the more extended Report of this Department.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. R. ANDERSON,

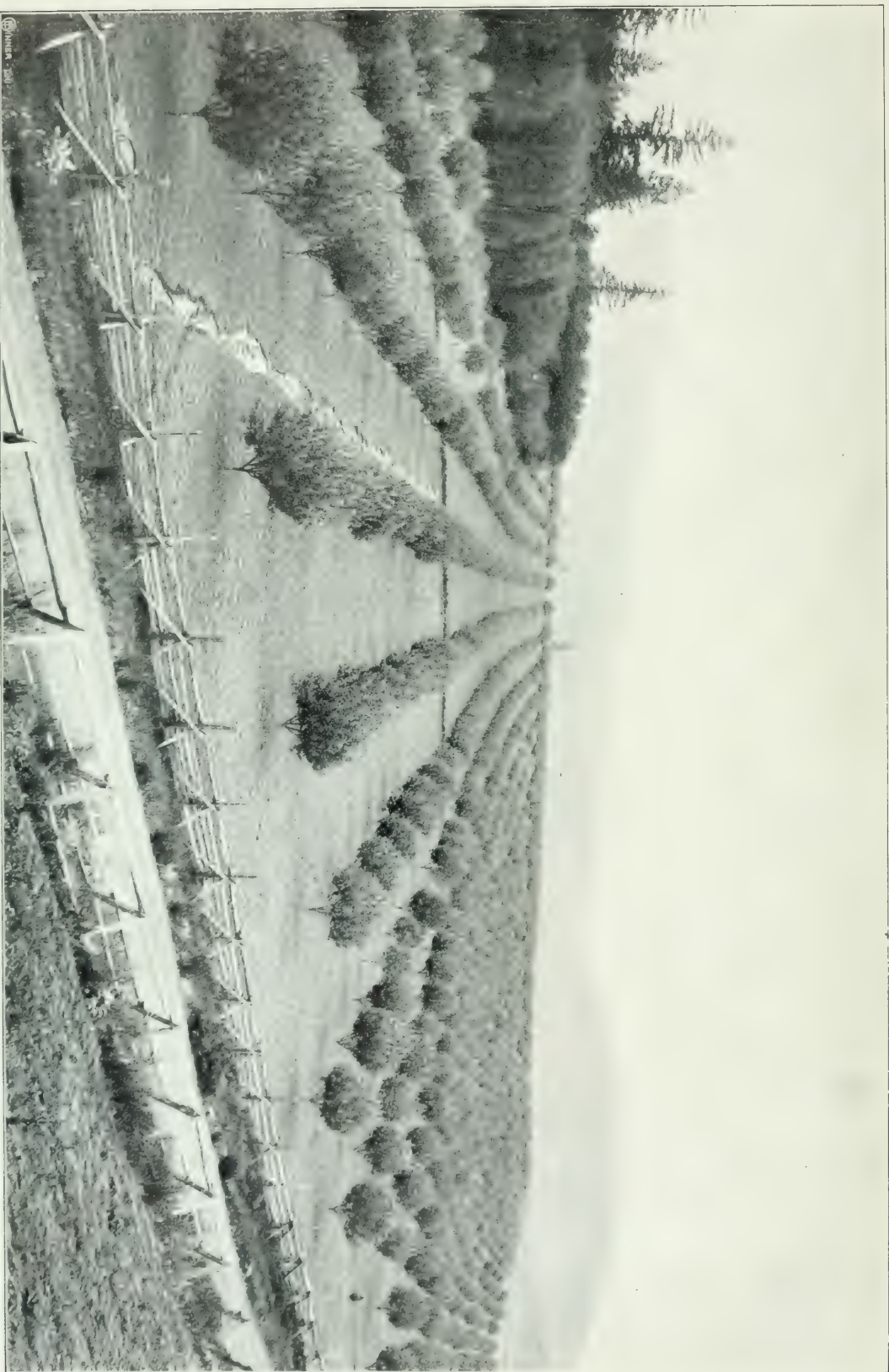
*Deputy Minister of Agriculture.*





HAY FIELD, SAANICH.





APPLE ORCHARD, COLDSTREAM RANCH.

# BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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## ITS AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES AND POSSIBILITIES.

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British Columbia, although not, strictly speaking, an agricultural country, has nevertheless large areas of arable land of great fertility, and capable of producing much more than is required of its present or prospective population. The mining and other industries in the earlier history of the Province so completely occupied the attention of its inhabitants that British Columbia came to be considered by them, and naturally by outsiders, as a country quite unfit for agricultural pursuits; and so much was this the case, that when the subject of Confederation was first mooted, not only was British Columbia designated by one of the leading statesmen of the East as "A Sea of Mountains," but it was actually looked upon as utterly worthless, "the derelict of Canada," by many people who should and perhaps did know better; and even after the wonderful resources of the Western Province had developed to such an extent as to wring the acknowledgment of its richness from its detractors, the belief still existed, and does exist among many, that although rich in minerals, timber, fish and coal, there is not agricultural land sufficiently extensive or good in the Province to produce enough to feed its own inhabitants, to say nothing of the possibility of its production ever reaching such a point as to contemplate exportation outside its confines.

Now, whilst it is quite true that British Columbia is not, strictly speaking, an agricultural country, never did a greater fallacy exist than that the agricultural area of land is so circumscribed and poor as it has been depicted.

Another fallacy is that of climate. The very name of Canada is associated by very many people with the idea of "Our Lady of the Snows"; and since British Columbia is part and parcel of the great Dominion, it has come to be regarded as identical in climate to the Provinces in the East. Amongst our friends to the south of us also, divided only by an imaginary line, the idea is quite general that, climatically, British Columbia is unfit for agricultural pursuits.

A great deal of misconception regarding the Province is undoubtedly due to ill-informed writers, who, after viewing the country through the window of a Pullman car, or from the deck of a steamer, forthwith undertake to write a book, all about the country.

On account of its topography and extent, ranging as it does from the 49th to the 60th degrees of latitude, and intersected as it is by immense mountain ranges, with the warm Japan current setting over to its shores, it may easily be understood that the climate of British Columbia is varied in its character, that its products, as a natural sequence, are also very varied, embracing those of the semi-tropical as well as of the temperate zones. The apple, par excellence, is the fruit of the country, which with the pear, plum, prune, cherry, and all small fruits, attains great perfection in most of the settled portions of the Province. Peaches, apricots, nectarines, grapes, and such fruits, are naturally not so wide in their distribution, but are successfully cultivated in many parts of the southern portions of the Province. Melons, tomatoes, Chili peppers, egg plant, and all vegetables of this character, are also grown to perfection in many parts. In the matter of nuts—almonds, walnuts, filberts, hazelnuts, cobnuts, chestnuts, &c.—these produce well wherever grown. It is impossible at the present writing to give any statistical information, even of an approximate character, of the number and kinds of orchards in the Province, nor the amount of fruit produced. This may be said, however, that whereas a few years ago most of the fruit consumed was imported from the neighbouring States and California, now most of the fruits coming to the Province from these sources are early fruits, which come before the home production is ready for the market.



The exportation of fruit, likewise, to the North-West Provinces and the Yukon is assuming large proportions, and the quantity is increasing year by year, as the young orchards which have been set out come into bearing. The area under fruit has been increased greatly during the last five or six years, and people generally are adopting methods more in accordance with the well-understood successful principles of fruit culture, profiting by the lessons gained by experience and avoiding the mistakes which are generally made by beginners. Although the area under prunes is quite extensive, the orchards are quite young, and since a ready sale has been found for the green fruit, none has, so far, been cured. The production of wheat in a country where the area of cultivated land is comparatively limited, and where it can be put to much more profitable use, is, as a matter of course, not prosecuted to any great extent; still, large quantities are produced in what is known as the Upper Country or Dry Belt, and a considerable quantity of the flour used in the Province is manufactured from wheat grown in the Okanagan country. Irrigation is practised in the Upper Country, and available water is fairly abundant for the purpose except in certain localities; in the other portions of the Province irrigation is not necessary, the rainfall being sufficient.

It is needless to say that, under the conditions named, all the other grains, roots and vegetables ordinarily grown in these latitudes attain the greatest perfection, and the production is in many cases above the average.

The opportunities for dairying in the Province afford particular inducements, for, besides the excellent market now available, and those in prospect of which mention is made elsewhere, the equable climate affords facilities unequalled for winter dairying (the most profitable of all dairying) in any other Province in the Dominion. In that portion of the Province lying to the westward of the Coast <sup>Mountain</sup> Range, green food is to be obtained practically all the year round. In that portion known as the Dry Belt, however, the conditions for dairying are not as favourable, on account of the colder winters and the drier climate, necessitating irrigation in most sections. In those parts where the precipitation is sufficient, and where water is available for irrigation, the growth of leguminous plants, such as clover and vetches, is simply marvellous, and no difficulty is experienced in providing green succulent food in abundance during the summer months. For winter dairying, however, outside green food cannot be depended upon, and roots and silage will have to be resorted to for the successful production of milk. It must not be inferred, however, from these remarks that sufficient green food is to be obtained during the winter months for the successful prosecution of winter dairying; on the contrary; for whilst green food is available during most of the winter months, it is a well-known fact that cows in milk cannot be allowed to roam about the fields on cold, wet days, and substitutes, such as are spoken of, must also be provided. Nevertheless, dairying is a branch of agricultural industry which in British Columbia is capable of great expansion, and, moreover, one of the branches which presents more opportunities for profitable investment than most others. The home markets offer all the necessary inducements in that direction. The deficiency of butter is being gradually reduced by the establishment of creameries at various points, but the general run of ranchers are slow to adopt co-operative measures, and many manufacture butter on their own account; and whilst it is but natural that there are some good butter-makers, there are many who are not, and the price of butter, therefore, of this class, which is put on the market, is ruled, except in a few cases, by that of the poorest quality.

The importation of dairy products from other countries and from the other Provinces amounted in the one year ending 30th June, 1900, as follows:—

	Value.	Duty Paid.
Butter .....(lbs.) 2,821,913	\$691,341	.... \$20,522 96
Cheese .....(lbs.) 918,155	95,040	.... 2,311 23
Condensed Milk .....	301,610	.... 40,799 71
	\$1,087,991	\$63,633 90

It will, therefore, be readily seen that with the markets ready to hand, and those prospective markets which there is every reason to believe will be developed with the advancement of the Province—an advancement which it is fully anticipated will be very great in the near future—it is reasonable to expect that prosperity will reward the efforts of the agriculturist, the stock-raiser, and all those engaged in any branch of this all-important industry. The price of butter seldom falls to 18 cents, and it often goes as high as 35 and 40 cents; probably 25 cents may be quoted as an average price.



The production of poultry is another industry which will well repay intelligent prosecution at points within easy distance of the large towns. The importations, as mentioned in the case of dairy products, for the same period were as follows :—

	Value.	Duty Paid.
Dressed poultry .....	\$ 64,221	\$ 3,239 05
Eggs, dozens, 1,573,017 .....	241,367	10,332 00
	\$305,588	\$13,571 05

To which should be added the importation of live fowls, included amongst other live stock. The vicinity of the large towns is, of course, preferable for the successful prosecution of this industry, as there is a market always ready to hand. On account of the distance from the larger towns and the prevalence of coyotes, the Upper Country is not recommended for poultry-raising. Barnyard fowls fetch from 35 cents to 75 cents each, the former price being exceptional; an average price of 50 to 60 cents may be quoted. Eggs are seldom lower than 25 cents per dozen, and often as high as 75 cents. Ducks, which can and should be sold at nine weeks in order to be profitable, find a ready market amongst the Chinese, who are inordinately fond of them, at profitable prices.

Horned cattle are profitably produced in large numbers for beef in the Upper Country, where they are pastured over the extensive ranges covered with wild grasses. Although large numbers of cattle are produced in the Province, the demand is considerably in excess of the production, as the following will bear witness, being the importations for one year, viz. :—

	Value.	Duty.
Cattle on foot.....(head) 7,776	\$229,077	\$1,841 40
Beef..... (lbs.) 2,715,563	190,208	162 66
	\$419,285	\$2,004 06

The ranges still in the public domain are so eaten down as to be valueless for cattle-raising unless supplemented by privately-owned ranges. These are not to be obtained in the older settled portions of the country, but large tracts are still to be had in the northern part of the Province, viz., the Nechaco and Bulkley valleys. The current price of beef cattle on foot at the present time is 4½ cents per pound. Judicious systems of cold storage at convenient points in the cattle-producing sections of the Province have been advocated, which, it is believed, would greatly benefit not only the stock-raiser but the ranges. Such establishments should be of sufficient capacity to accommodate all the cattle fit for beef, which should be killed at a time when they are in their prime and sent to the markets as they are required. Thus not only would the consumer have the beef in prime condition, but the stock-raiser would sell when the cattle were heaviest, the ranges would have an opportunity to recuperate, and the transportation charges greatly lessened.

The production of swine offers particular inducements if intelligently prosecuted: the local market for this class of live stock, on account of the numbers of Chinese, who practically use no other flesh, if we except fowls and ducks, to say nothing of the demands of the white population, is exceptionally good. Those farmers who are following the industry systematically are all doing well, but there is room for a great many more. The following statistics of importations for the period previously alluded to speak for themselves:

	Value.	Duty.
On foot .. .....	\$ 62,159	\$ 1,022 53
Bacon, hams and lard.... (lbs.) 7,360,783	814,324	67,669 29
Fresh pork (lbs.) 868,557....	69,477	119 14
	\$945,960	\$68,810 96

All parts of the Province are well suited for this industry, if, as we have said before, it is followed intelligently. Clover, one of the very best foods for pigs, grows most luxuriantly, as well as all kinds of grass, which, if judiciously fed down by pigs, give larger returns in many cases than if harvested and sold. The price of pigs on foot is, at the present time, 6½c. per pound; bacon, 15½c.; hams, 15c.; lard, 12½c., and fresh pork 12½c.

Sheep, although in good demand, are not produced in large numbers. This is owing to several causes, viz.: In the Upper Country the objection of cattle-breeders to sheep being pastured on the ranges, the prevalence of coyotes in the same section, the circumscribed area of open land in the Lower Country, and pests in the shape of panthers, Indian dogs, etc. The most favourable portions of the Province for the prosecution of this industry are the islands of the Gulf, which are free from wild animals, and being fairly open, afford good runs for sheep. Good profits are made by those engaged in sheep-raising, especially in supplying the markets with spring lambs, which sell at \$1.50, whilst sheep on foot at the present time are worth from 5c. to 6c. per pound. The last statistics of importations for one year are as follows:—

		Value.		Duty.
On foot . . . . . (head)	52,685 . . . .	\$116,254 . . . .		\$19,278 80
Mutton . . . . . (lbs.)	756,808 . . . .	31,661 . . . .		8,472 98
		\$147,915		\$27,751 78

Wool being practically of no value, owing to the absence of manufactories, only those breeds principally esteemed for mutton are produced in any numbers.

Except for stock-feeding, the production of wheat is discouraged in those portions of the Province where the areas of open land are limited, and where the climatic conditions are such as to render harvesting somewhat precarious, especially as lands so situated are capable of being put to much more profitable uses. In the Upper Country, however, where there are large areas of open land, milling wheat of fine quality is produced profitably in large quantities, both with and without irrigation, depending upon the locality, and the product is converted into flour at the several grist mills, which take all that is produced. For milling purposes, the price of wheat is about \$26 per ton of 2,000 pounds, whilst for feeding fowls and such purposes it fetches \$24. The last statistics of importations are as follows:—

		Value.		Duty.
Flour and meal . . . (barrels)	130,661 . . . .	\$565,780 . . . .		\$12,723 30
Wheat . . . . . (bushels)	135,135 . . . .	102,101 . . . .		2,972 28
		\$667,881		\$15,695 58

The average yield of wheat is about 41 bushels per acre, and the weight about 63 pounds per bushel. There are cases, however, when the yield is as high as 60 bushels and the weight 67 pounds.

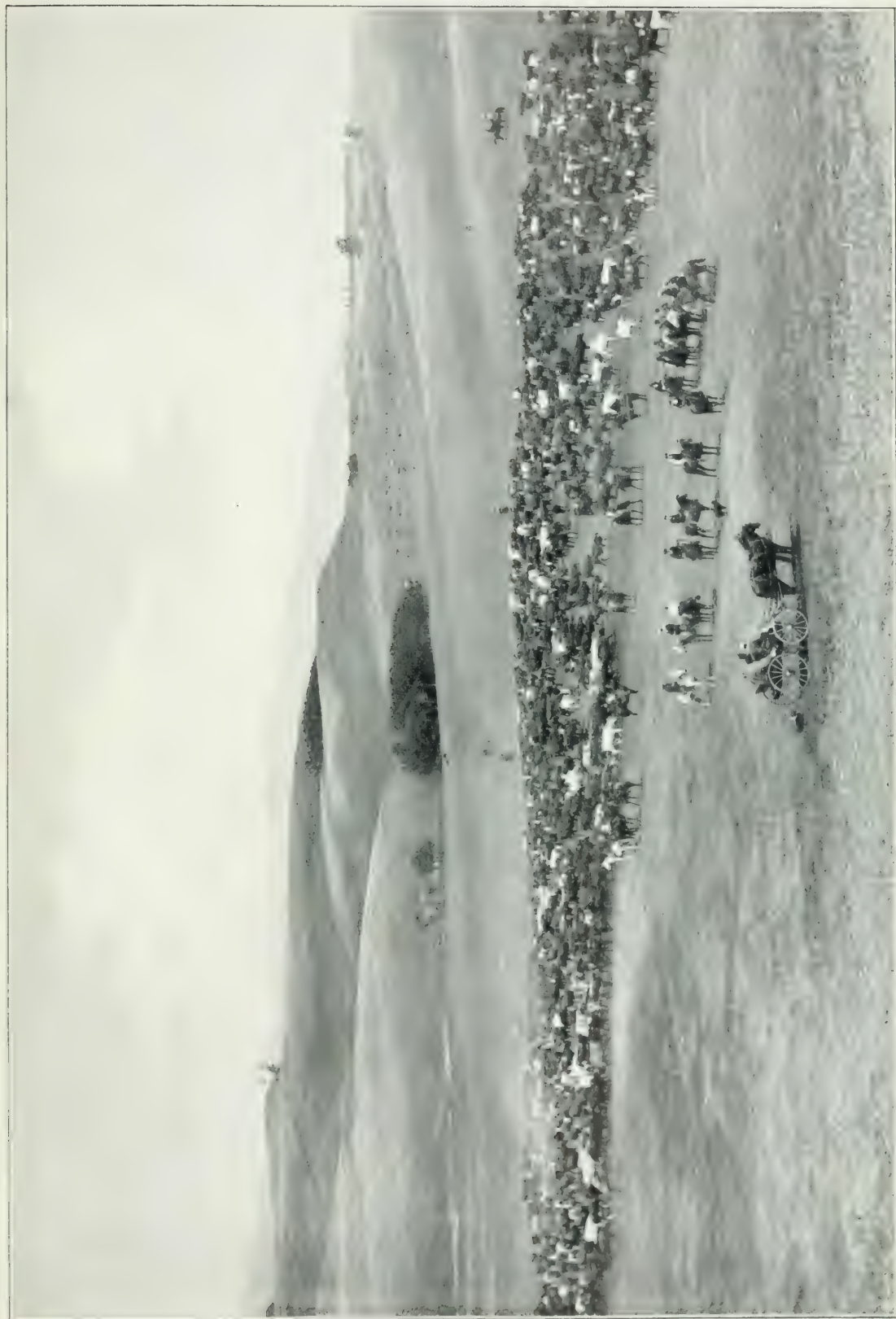
Oats are grown all over the Province, and since the yield is large and the market always good, it is probably the most profitable of any of the cereals grown, and the production is, therefore, comparatively large. Large, however, as the production is, it does not nearly meet the demand, as will be seen by the following statistics of importations for one year, viz:—

		Value.		Duty.
Oats . . . . . (bushels)	596,339 . . . .	\$212,468 . . . .		\$2,238 70
Oatmeal . . . . . (lbs.)	4,776 . . . .	272 . . . .		54 40
		\$212,740		\$2,293 10

The price of oats for feed at the present time is \$24 per ton, and for milling \$25. The average yield is put down at 63 bushels per acre, and the weight 43 pounds per bushel. One hundred and fifty four bushels have, however, been taken off an acre on the delta land of the Fraser, and the yield frequently runs up to 80 and 90 bushels per acre, and the weight up to 47 and 50 pounds.

Barley is produced principally for horse and cattle feed, little or none for malting, the malt used for beer-making being all imported. A very high grade of barley is produced, grain that has been pronounced by experts to be equal to the best malting barley that is used in England. The quantity imported in one year, according to the last statistics, is:—

		Value.		Duty.
Barley . . . . . (bushels)	22,340 . . . .	\$ 9,135 . . . .		\$ 177 68
Malt . . . . . " "	77,945 . . . .	56,378 . . . .		11,284 55
		\$65,513		\$11,462 23



ROUND-UP OF CATTLE, KAMLOOPS.





HAYING, SALT SPRING ISLAND.



All parts of the Province are suitable for the production of this grain, but as most of it is used for feeding animals engaged in hauling and packing into the mines, the production is principally confined to those sections which are nearest to lines of communication with the mines. For malting purposes, probably that produced under irrigation is best, being brighter in colour than that produced under natural conditions. The average production is about 52 bushels per acre, the weight 57 pounds per bushel, but the production frequently runs up to 60 and 65 bushels per acre, and the weight to 65 pounds. The price of barley at the present time for feed is \$22, and for milling (pearling) \$27 per ton.

Beans are used largely as an article of food by miners, prospectors, packers, teamsters, lumbermen, and others: this class forming, as it may be supposed, a large proportion of the rural population of the Province, and in consequence the consumption of this article is large and increasing. It is successfully produced in considerable quantities in certain parts of the Dry Belt, notably along the Fraser in the vicinity of Lytton, Lillooet, etc., and along the Thompson in the vicinity of Spence's Bridge, and it is susceptible of being successfully produced in other parts of that section. The importations for one year were as follows: bushels, 8,495; value, \$12,404; duty, \$1,336.34. The price of beans at the present time is about 3c. per pound.

Peas are used in considerable quantities, principally for the fattening of swine; they are produced successfully in the Upper Country, the high lands of the Lower Fraser, and the Islands, but are not a reliable crop on the delta lands. The importations for one year were 2,373 bushels, valued at \$2,033; duty \$237.30. The average yield is about 45 bushels per acre, and the weight about 62 pounds per bushel. The price at the present time is from \$28 to \$30 per ton of 2,000 pounds.

Rye is grown principally for hay in those portions of the Dry Belt where water for irrigation is scarce or unobtainable. In such places it is sown in the fall and cut green. A limited quantity is raised for the grain, but the consumption is limited.

Buckwheat is also produced, though only in limited quantities, there being but small demand for the grain, the principal value being the honey contained in the flowers for bees.

Indian corn is produced successfully in some districts for ensilage, and in every part for table use, but it is not anywhere cultivated for the grain. The successful cultivation of this plant in many parts has not yet been fully demonstrated, but the belief is that much more can be done with it than has hitherto been attempted. Some samples grown at Okanagan, now in the Department of Agriculture at Victoria, measure about fourteen feet in height.

Broom corn is also successfully produced in Okanagan, as can be seen by specimens in the Department. Provided the raw material could be utilised by broom factories, this is an industry which might be successfully prosecuted.

Grasses and clover may be said to grow almost naturally and in the Lower Mainland and Islands keep green the winter through. Timothy, although giving little or no aftermath, is mostly grown for hay. This is owing to the fact that it is practically the only hay known to the ordinary dealer in the cities. It unquestionably makes good horse hay, and the yield runs up as high as four tons to the acre on some of the delta lands. For dairying, however, and general use on the farm, other grasses are justly coming into favour. All classes of clover and leguminous plants attain to wonderful perfection. The ordinary red clover and alfalfa frequently give three crops during the season.

Flax, of excellent quality, has been grown in the Province. The report obtained from a linen firm near Belfast, of a number of samples sent to them by the Department of Agriculture to be scutched, is of a most encouraging nature, and there is every reason to believe that the product of British Columbia is equal in every respect to the best Irish or Belgian flax.

Potatoes and all other root crops and vegetables are, of course, produced with the greatest ease and yield very largely; and this remark is true of every part of the Province. Even in those parts in the mining districts which, owing to natural causes, such as altitude and situation, are generally considered to be beyond the limit of successful production, many of the crops named do well and give large profits to those who undertake their production.

Experiments in sugar beets carried on by the Department have resulted in demonstrating that the sugar bearing properties of the roots grown in the Province are very great. Chicory is another article of economic value which has been grown successfully, but to a limited extent only.

Honey in the drier portions of the Province, owing to the absence of flowers in the late summer, has not thus far been produced in any great quantity in those parts, but in the

moister parts, on delta lands, etc., where white clover keeps in flower, a good flow of honey of excellent quality is obtained, and bee-keeping in such localities is prosecuted with profit and a considerable quantity of honey is produced. The production, however, does not nearly equal the demand, as the following figures will testify, being the imports for one year, viz.: 58,339 lbs., valued at \$5,876; duty paid, \$1,605.72. The price of honey at the present time is from 18 to 20 cents per lb.

Such fruits as apples, pears, plums, prunes and cherries are all grown in abundance, but still not in sufficient quantities as yet to supply the demand of the markets which particularly belong to the Province, viz., Manitoba, the North-West Territories and the northern mines. The young orchards which are coming into bearing, however, will in a few years considerably alter the complexion of affairs as regards production: nevertheless, as the demand is steadily increasing in the markets named, and as the markets of China and Japan are opened up for such products, there need be no fear of over-production, and so long as the fruit is of good quality and it is packed as it should be for the market, so long will the production of fruits be a profitable industry in the Province.

Owing to the topography and climatic conditions of a country like British Columbia, it is but reasonable to expect that all the varieties of fruits named do not succeed equally well in every part, and it is of the utmost importance that intending orchardists should bear this in mind, and before planting out an orchard they should ascertain from the Department of Agriculture what particular kinds of fruit suit the locality in which they propose to establish themselves. All the best known and favourite English and American varieties of apples, and some of the hardy Russian varieties, do well in one section or another of the Province; and this is true of the other fruits, and it is only by experience that the knowledge has been attained as to the best varieties for the different parts. Peaches, apricots, nectarines, grapes, and such fruits, although succeeding well where their cultivation has been attempted, have not so far been produced in quantities sufficient for commercial purposes.

Agricultural labourers, Whites, Indians, Chinese and Japanese, are to be had at rates ranging from \$2 per day, and even higher for the best skilled labour, to \$1 and board for the lowest.

Climatically, British Columbia may shortly be described as temperate. On the Coast the thermometer seldom falls as low as zero, and then only for a few hours, and seldom rises to above 75 or 80 degrees. The rainfall is heavy in winter, but the snowfall is often nil. The climate of the interior is naturally more diversified—colder in winter, hotter in summer, less rainfall and more snow.

Now, in connection with the climatic conditions of the country, it may be appropriate to digress for a little, in order to dispel, if possible, the prevailing idea that British Columbia has a *very wet* climate. In point of fact, taking it as a whole, the climate resembles that of England and Scotland very closely, and a comparison of the total precipitation of the Eastern Provinces goes far to show that it is altogether in favour of British Columbia. The difference is that the precipitation in the latter Province is almost altogether in the shape of rain, and it occurs almost entirely during the winter months, whilst in the East more rain falls during the summer months, and more snow during the winter months.

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NOTE.—The amount of duty quoted in the foregoing pages does not represent in every case the amount of duty on imports of products from foreign countries during that particular period, but it represents the duty paid during that year.

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The opening chapter of a series of excellent articles on British Columbia, published by the "Colonist" newspaper, is as follows:—

### "British Columbia.

"The magnitude of British Columbia and the extent and diversity of its resources are such that few people, if any, are able to take them in as a whole and form an adequate conception of what are the possibilities of Provincial development and the greatness of the task involved in properly opening the country to enterprise and colonisation. We shall endeavour, in a series of articles, to present in succinct form the salient facts bearing upon this subject, and shall be very glad if any readers who may follow what is said and may have any additional



information to offer, will kindly communicate it. Our desire is to collect in convenient compass the facts which influence British Columbians to form the opinion that we not only have here the richest Province in Canada, but one of the most favoured regions on the globe.

"At the present time capital and enterprise are seeking out every corner of the world, where there are available openings. Especially are British capital and enterprise going every where. Climatic conditions, no matter how adverse, do not deter them. The lack of settled government and the presence of unfriendly native tribes are alike unable to keep them back. All they seem to ask is that there is a reasonable chance of profit. Risk does not count. When we see what is done in other parts of the world, we sometimes think that if British Columbia were more difficult of access, if deadly diseases haunted our coasts, if hostile natives swarmed along our rivers, if a merciless climate rendered life here scarcely endurable, British enterprise would be more attracted in this direction. The spice of danger, the element of romance, would attract the descendants of the adventurers of Elizabeth's day. But conditions here are prosaic. The country is easily reached. It is one of the healthiest regions on earth. There are no hostile natives. The climate is in many parts ideal, and nowhere too severe for comfortable living. The seeker after wealth does not have to array himself in the paraphernalia of war and carry with him an arsenal as well as a bank account. It is simply a splendid country to live in, with a settled Government under the British flag, where life and property are as safe as in the heart of the Empire itself. It does not lend itself to blood-curdling magazine stories, and the illustrated press finds no sensations here. There are no 'natives' with imaginary trade possibilities concealed about their otherwise naked persons. Hence it does not attract the attention that less favoured parts of the world do. To many people it seems unreasonable that a part of the globe, so rich in natural wealth and so blest climatically as British Columbia, should remain unoccupied. Such people do not take account of the vastness of North America nor of the comparatively recent date within which the potentialities of this Province became known. Under these circumstances, we suggest that all who are interested in the future of this Province should engage, to the best of their ability, in a campaign of education. It is with this object that the series of articles, of which this is the first, will be published. There will necessarily be stated in them many things which are familiar to many readers, but perhaps even the best-informed among the latter will not object on this account, but, on the contrary, will follow what is said, and when they can will add what of interest may occur to them. We hope to point out the way of making the Province better known, trusting that others better equipped for the work will give us their hearty co-operation in a labour which, to be well done, will call for much research, and which no single individual can hope to do thoroughly.

"The area of British Columbia is approximately 400,000 square miles. The latest official statement on the subject is as follows:—

"The total area of British Columbia is about 382,000 square miles, of which 285,000 square miles are estimated to be wooded."

"A very large portion of the Mainland and many of the Islands have not been surveyed, so that an accurate statement of the area is impossible. For purposes of comparison, we may take it to be the figure first stated, namely, 400,000 square miles. The area of the British Isles is 121,483 square miles, that of Germany is 208,738 square miles, that of France 207,801 square miles, and that of Spain 197,000 square miles. From its south-eastern corner, near the Kootenay Pass, to the north-western corner near Mount St. Elias, the distance is 1,250 miles, or as far as from John O'Groats' House to Madrid, or from London to St. Petersburg, air lines being taken in each case.

"British Columbia lies between the 49th and 60th parallels of north latitude, with the exception of the southern portion of Vancouver Island, which extends to within 20 miles of the 48th parallel. In this connection it may be mentioned that Victoria, the capital of the Province, lies 20 minutes south of the latitude of Paris, and Bennett, the most northerly town in the Province, is in the latitude of St. Petersburg. Between these latitudes in Europe the greatest material and intellectual progress of mankind has taken place, and in point of natural wealth, and all the other elements which go to make greatness and prosperity possible, British Columbia is at least equally well endowed with the corresponding portion of Europe. What it may lack in one respect it makes up in others. We do not wish to push the comparison too far, and must not be understood as claiming that this Province is ever likely to sustain as great a population per square mile as is crowded into Central Europe. The point which we wish to make is that British Columbia is all within habitable latitudes, and those in which

men are at their best. This is a consideration of the greatest importance when the geographical position of the Province as regards Asia and the British Empire generally is taken into account, for it shows that here may be built up a British community of the highest type, and that here the greatest triumphs of civilisation are possible."

Roughly speaking, the Province may be divided into three great parts, viz.: the Dry Belt, or Upper Mainland, by which is meant that part to the eastward of the Coast Range; the Lower Mainland, being that part between the Coast Range and the Sea; and the Islands, viz., Vancouver, Queen Charlotte, and the Gulf Islands.

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## UPPER MAINLAND.

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The general appearance of this part of the Province would indicate that at some remote period it was covered with water, in fact, a large lake, and with the subsidence of the waters, by reason of the cutting through of the mountain ranges by such rivers as the Fraser and Columbia, the country was left in what is known as benches, that is, level prairie land running back in successive stages until the foot-hills are reached. This is strikingly illustrated in the upper reaches of the Fraser and of the Columbia, where, starting from the river level, which may here be likened to a deep ditch with sloping sides, the first bench is reached after a climb of perhaps 200 feet. This bench may run back for a mile, or thereabouts, when another bank is encountered, running still further towards the foot-hills, and so on. These bench lands are nearly all of the same nature, being either a sandy, clayey, or a mixture of both, alluvial deposit, for the most part of extraordinary fertility, when moisture is in sufficient quantity. The general altitude of the lower bench lands is from 1,000 to 1,200 feet. On these benches most of the ordinary productions of the temperate zone can be successfully cultivated, but as the altitude increases, so is the possible range of production circumscribed, until when the highest points are reached the production of live stock is alone possible.

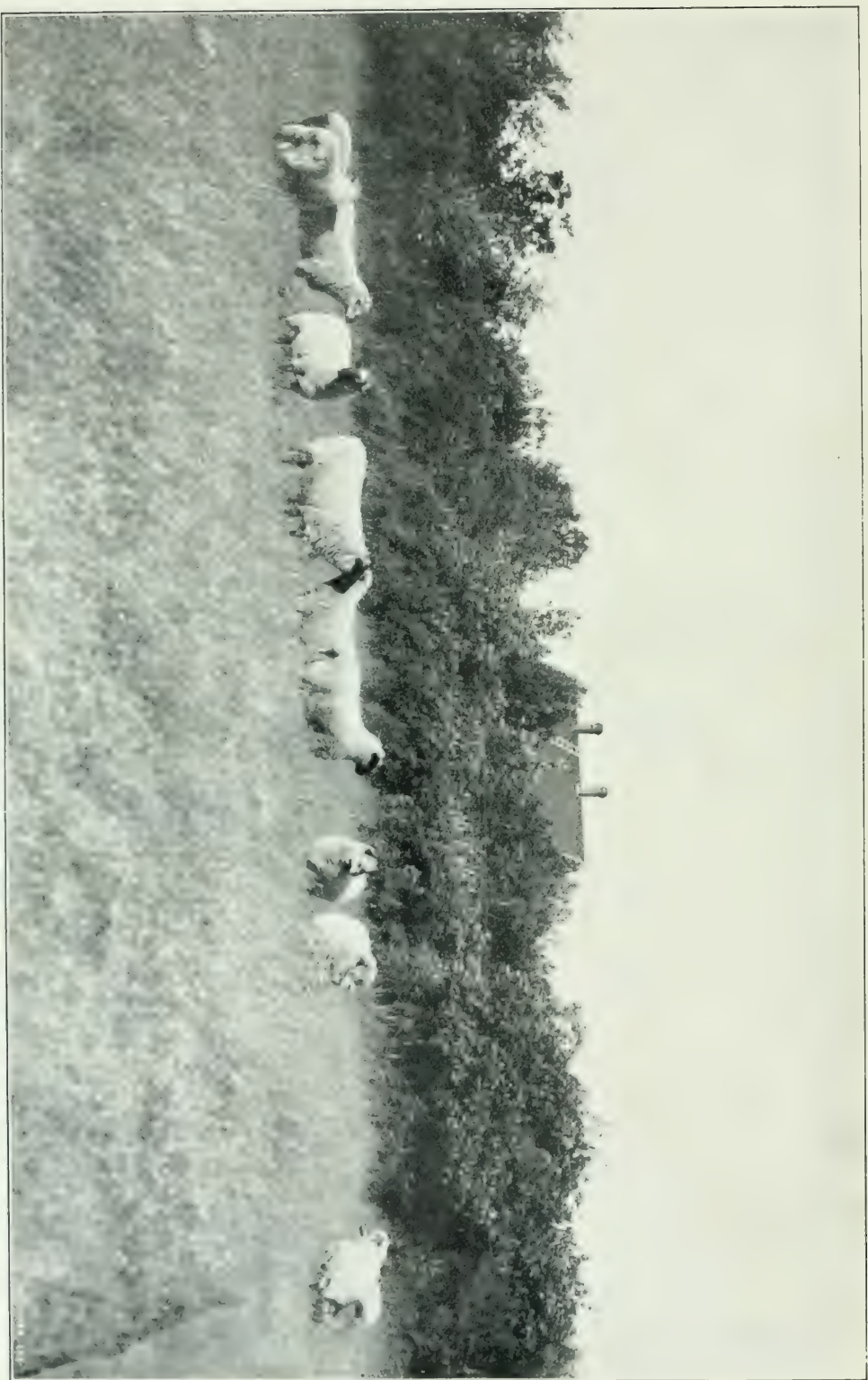
The timber on the higher points consists of black pine (*Pinus Murrayana*), hemlock (*Tsuga Pattoniana*), spruce (*Picea Engelmannii*), mountain balsam (*Abies subalpina*), whilst lower down the larch (*Larix occidentalis*) makes its appearance, and then the Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga Douglasii*), intermixed with such deciduous trees as aspen poplar (*Populus tremuloides*), cottonwood (*P. trichocarpa*), and birch (*Betula Papyrifera*); and, lastly, what is locally known as bull pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and red cedar (*Thuja gigantea*), the former occurring on dry, open plateaux, and the latter in damp, wooded sections near streams and lakes; and these constitute the principal timber trees of this portion of the Mainland, those first named gradually giving way to the last-named varieties as the lower levels are reached. The principal grass, and one which is justly esteemed for its great value as a fodder plant, is known locally as bunch grass, rather an indefinite term, seeing that there are a number of bunch grasses throughout the country. This particular one, however, is known botanically as *Agropyrum tenerum*, and its range extends from the valleys to the tops of the mountains, affording magnificent feed for live stock, having great nutritive properties. It will, therefore, be recognised that the capabilities of this section of the Province are exceptionally favourable for the production of live stock; hence, great numbers of beef cattle are raised on the large areas of bunch-grass country, and find a ready market in the Coast cities and at the mining centres. The principal drawback in prosecuting this industry profitably is the necessity of feeding stock, even in ordinary winters, to keep them up in flesh, and often, in very severe weather, even to keep them alive. As previously mentioned, cold storage is perhaps the solution of the difficulty.

Whilst the production of sheep would, perhaps, under ordinary circumstances, be more profitable, the existence of the coyote nuisance renders the prosecution of this industry too hazardous, and it is therefore not entered into to any extent. Another factor militating





FRUIT FARM, GRAND FORKS.



RAMS, LADNER.

against the industry is the objection of cattlemen to the presence of sheep on the ranges. Horses are produced to a considerable extent, but the local demand is soon satisfied and the number produced is, therefore, restricted. The production of swine is probably the most profitable of all live stock, and is carried on successfully in some parts of the Okanagan. A great deal of the country is admirably suited for the production of poultry, but on account of the prevalence of predatory wild animals, the industry is not capable of being profitably prosecuted. Hops are successfully grown in the Okanagan country, under irrigation, and produce heavy crops of exceptional quality. Tobacco, of a very good quality, is also successfully produced at Kelowna, where a cigar factory is established, the product being disposed of at profitable rates. The quality of this tobacco for cigars is pronounced by experts to be of a very high order, and the industry is apparently capable of great expansion. No doubt there are other portions of the Mainland equally adapted to the production of tobacco.

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The following is from a pamphlet descriptive of Kelowna and its surroundings :

### "Mission Valley.

"The tourist who elects to travel from Vernon to Kelowna by road will scarcely notice the fatigue of the journey of thirty-five miles amid the varied beauty of the scenery along the way. About eighteen miles from Vernon the Mission Valley begins. The town of Kelowna is beautifully situated on the eastern shore of Okanagan Lake, about forty miles south of Vernon, and is the shipping point for the Mission Valley, one of the finest farming districts in British Columbia. Looking from the lake, the tourist sees the little town with its surrounding fertile and well-wooded lands, whilst away to the east and south rises the range of pine-clad hills which separate the Okanagan from the Kettle River and Kootenay. No more charming bits of scenery are to be found in the Province, and travellers say the exquisite and ever-varying tints remind them of Loch Lomond or the Swiss lakes. The climate is dry and bracing. There are few places in the Province possessing more attractions for the holiday maker or health seeker, such as boating, bathing, fishing, good roads for driving or bicycling ; and for the more adventurous, deer, caribou, mountain sheep and bear in the neighbouring mountains."

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Apples of finer quality than in the other portions of the Province are produced in many portions of the Dry Belt ; pears are also successfully grown, as well as plums and cherries ; grapes do well in the hot, contracted valleys of the Upper Fraser, and in the Okanagan and the Similkameen country. The last-mentioned section also produces a very fine quality of peach, this fruit being produced very successfully on the Okanagan Lake as well. With reference to the suitability of the country in the valley of the Similkameen and Okanagan for the production of peaches, I may mention that peaches have been produced at Keremeos for many years past, and justly bear a reputation for unexcelled excellence, and the only reason they have not been put on the market is for lack of transportation facilities.

The following excerpts of letters from Mr. J. M. Robinson, Peachland, on the Okanagan Lake, speak for themselves :—

"By same mail I am sending you a limb of a peach tree that is growing wild on Mr. Barclay's ranch at Trout Creek. The tree, or cluster of trees rather, is about 7 feet high and is heavily laden with fruit. It is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles back from the lake and 1,000 feet above the lake level, or 2,200 feet above sea level. The tree is growing on a gravelly knoll or ridge, and must be fully 50 feet above the level of the little lake close by. I am more convinced than ever that we are quite likely to become a good deal more than small potatoes in peach production. If we have 60 miles of a valley strip, 3 or 4 miles wide that can produce such peaches as are now being shipped from Lambly's, Garfield's, &c., I do not see why British Columbia should not aspire to do something in peach-raising. I thought you would be interested in this wild peach tree, and hence my shipping this branch.

"Referring again to the matter of that wild peach tree growing at the back end of Mr. Barclay's ranch. In company with Mr. Henderson, manager of the Bank of Montreal at Vernon, and Mr. Barclay, I visited the tree again on Monday last, and we all had the pleasure of eating the peaches, which are now ripe, and I found them, if anything, larger and better



flavoured than the seedling peaches on the Lambly ranch. I thought I would let you know, so that you can keep the fact in mind, that peaches can be grown in this district even under most unpromising circumstances, four miles back and 1,000 feet above the lake. I am desirous that this district be noted for its peach culture."

Tomatoes, melons, corn, egg plant, and a variety of similar products, are also grown in many portions of the hot dry valleys of the interior. Root crops are grown most successfully on the irrigated lands, especially potatoes, of which the finest quality is produced in this section and of a prodigious size. Wheat is grown in large quantities in those portions where milling facilities exist. Oats and barley are grown largely, principally for home consumption, at the mines, for teams used in transportation. Beans are also grown for the market, principally in the valley of the Thompson. The principal grass grown is timothy, but Austrian brome grass is now coming greatly into favour, and where it has been tried it is most successfully grown and fully bears out all that is claimed in its favour. Red clover gives large crops, in some places as many as three in the season. Alfalfa is also grown, but not in large quantities; the same may be said of Sainfoin. Both of these fodder plants have their champions, and very justly, in view of the returns they give.

Dairying is not prosecuted on a co-operative basis, the only attempts at butter-making being confined to individuals. It is, however, profitably conducted in those parts where a good local demand with the mines, etc., exists.

The average temperature for the six months from April to September, inclusive, in those sections which are described as susceptible of cultivation, ranges from 55° to 61°. Highest temperature during the year 1900, 100.5° in July; lowest, 22° below zero in November; these extremes being of but short duration. Average rainfall during the six months April to September, inclusive: Lowest, 5.66 inches; highest, 11.30 inches. Average annual rainfall: Lowest, 8.48 inches; highest, 10.25 inches. This precipitation is supplemented by an average snowfall of from 28 to 87 inches annually.

### The Boundary Country.

The following excerpts culled from an excellent letter to the "Colonist" by Mr. T. L. Grahame, Nanaimo, give a good description of the Boundary country:—

"However vivid and minute the description which may be given of the southern portion of the Kootenay, Coast people, or those who have not actually viewed that glorious country with their own eyes, can form but a faint conception of its wonderful fertility, its delectable climate, its boundless stores of mineral wealth, its interminable forests of magnificent timber. When dealing with the practical side of the matter, it may be as well to spare the reader anything more than a bare reference to its marvellous scenery, its streams and lakes leaping with fish, that fight valiantly with the lucky angler; or of its birds, and animals of the chase. These, of course, have their place in the calculations of the most practical persons, when seeking an arena for life work. Even the shrewd railway projector is not altogether unmindful of the hard cash value of them to his railway; what time the tourist and the sportsman come in their legions seeking pastures new.

"To the observant traveller through that wonderland of the West, nothing is more obvious than the fact that very much remains to be done by the railway companies in the matter of extending and adding to their lines in all directions. It is true that none has been more apt to seize upon this fact than the great Canadian Pacific Railway, which, it is understood, has projected lines upon all the more feasible routes, and has included in its policy the gradual extension of its system so as to ramify the Southern Kootenays in the most effectual manner. With the struggle of smaller concerns to obtain a foothold in this territory, the people of British Columbia are familiar. It is one of the most romantic chapters in the railway history of the Dominion. While many have been keenly disappointed at the failure of those competing companies to achieve their object, the Canadian Pacific Railway has given the strongest pledges that the lines of communication which are to solve the problem of 'what to do with the Kootenays,' will be built all in good time.

"Perhaps the most interesting of all the railway lines in the Upper Country is the Columbian and Western, which extends from West Robson, on the Columbia River, to Midway, and has been surveyed much further west.



"Across the divide quite another kind of scenery awaits the traveller. Leaving the mountains with a rush, the train brings one in sight of the far-famed valley of the Kettle. Well has it been named the garden and granary of the Kootenays. Experts will tell the visitor that the soil is of a sort which is admirably suited to what may be termed garden-farming; that is, mixed farming, in which fruit and vegetable-raising take a conspicuous place.

"The aspect of the country reminds one strongly of certain parts of Western Ontario, or of the dales on the borders of Scotland. Everywhere are to be seen the trim cottages or more pretentious dwellings of people who are evidently well-to-do. One might search far to feast his eyes upon a more pleasingly tranquil landscape than that of the Kettle Valley toward evening, when the sun is mellowing into the west, and the blue smoke ascends from cottage and farm-house straight into the sapphire sky; the lowing of the kine from the river shallows, the bleating of sheep softened by distance from the green hillsides, the call of the driver to his team, all blending into a tune which sets one murmuring instinctively Gray's *Elegy* in a Country Churchyard."

"The land which can offer such scenes to the traveller is not likely to remain long untenanted. Nor is it; most of the land, at all events the best of it, has been long in occupation. As to the products of the soil in this favoured strip along British Columbia's southern frontier, the available area is by no means worked yet to its full capacity; so far it can raise enough to supply the numerous mining camps in the mountains north and west. It is a question, though, whether in the event of those mines being worked to their full extent, and large towns and even cities springing up around the valley, if the farmers and fruit and vegetable-growers of that locality could produce enough to supply the demand.

"This is a portion of the great peach belt, and the peaches of the Kettle are celebrated. For it is fervently warm in that long vale in the dog days, though every day the cooling airs from the surrounding mountains come to soothe panting humanity, and bird and beast. The apples, plums, pears, melons, pumpkins and the small fruits all attain astonishing proportions, while retaining the lusciousness of the best of their kind. The various fruits and vegetables are presented to the consumer at an earlier date, probably, than anywhere else in the Province. The wheat, oats and barley raised in the Kettle Valley are too well known to require more than reference.

"Near Grand Forks there is one of the largest and most productive fruit ranches on the Pacific Coast. The enterprising owner has so much faith in the future of the country that he has lately more than doubled the area under cultivation, and set the new portion out with all the choicest fruit trees and bushes. This ranch is situated at the mouth of the great canyon leading up to Greenwood, a little west of the town of Columbia, the lively rival of Grand Forks for the title of metropolis of the Kettle River Valley. As a district for raising live stock, it would be hard to beat. The sheep and cattle, horses and swine, and the poultry to be seen there will challenge the admiration of the expert. Year by year the valley is becoming more populous; the operation of such great enterprises as the Granby smelter, the prospect of the early building of a line to connect the Southern British Columbia mining centres with the big mining camps in Northern Washington; the thriving timber industry up the north fork of the Kettle—all these serve to attract energetic men with their families to settle in that locality. The class of people who are filling up that important section of the Province would do credit to any British colony. They are mainly good Canadian stock with a large intermixture of British immigrants. There are, of course, many Americans in the population, as would naturally be expected, seeing that the boundary line is only a mile or two south.

"Whilst the Kettle Valley is the main lowland along the boundary, all the minor valleys possess the same fertile soil, the same prodigality of returns for the labour expended, and offer the same advantages to the settler. On the line of the Columbia and Western, going up to Greenwood, there is plenty of evidence that the country is not given up altogether to the miner and timber men; prosperous looking farms dot the valley everywhere, and 'the cattle on a thousand hills' denote a flourishing state of the pastoral calling.

"It is needless here to dilate upon the exquisite panorama that unfolds itself in majestic pictures as the train follows the course of the valley; suffice it to say that artist and photographer have there a happy hunting ground which offers inexhaustible riches of form and colour—grotesque pinnacles, castellated crags, fantastic ornamentation as nature in her latest throes left it forever; blue distance, gaudy stripings and splashes of brilliant colour—in short, a place once seen never to be forgotten. Since the railway was pushed through that wild but rich and fertile valley there has been a wonderful increase in the population, and the prospects are

that within a few years that part of the Province will be noted for immense mineral development.

"Leaving the flourishing City of Greenwood, the railway goes on to Midway and beyond, and there, if possible, the finest of the agricultural development is met with. This may possibly be due to the fact that one is then approaching the famed Okanagan region. The salubrity of the climate makes one feel the spirits rising and lassitude disappearing. It is the easiest of predictions to make that the dwellers in this favored region, in the days to come, will be remarkable for go-ahead enterprise and great energy: they will have the finest climatic conditions in the Province to hearten them."

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### Further Information relating to the Boundary Country.

*(Province, 4th November, 1901.)*

The returns which are to be obtained from the agricultural industry, if properly pursued in this Province, are indicated by the result of this season's operations on one ranch in the neighbourhood of Grand Forks. W. H. Covert, a pioneer rancher of the Kettle River Valley, pre-empted 320 acres of land in 1885, long before it was known that the district was rich in mineral. He proceeded at once to cultivate his ground on thoroughly business-like principles, and of the entire farm he devoted 140 acres to the cultivation of fruit. Whenever necessary, he put in a system of irrigation, and by this means he has made every foot of his land highly fertile. He has now 1,000 prune trees, 400 peach, 400 cherry, 400 pear and plum trees, and several thousand apple trees, bearing large crops annually. In addition to this, he obtains immense returns from his small fruit trees and vines. The rest of his farm is devoted to raising the ordinary crops of roots and cereals, and providing fodder for his stock. The gross revenue from the sale of his fruit, grains and roots this season will amount to about \$17,000. With the continued prosperity of the district and the increase of the population, the annual revenue from his land will become larger, and no gold mine in the district could offer any more certain return. Of the produce from his farm, Mr. Covert does not ship a dollar's worth, finding the local demand greater than he can supply. As a matter of fact, Grand Forks and the other towns in this district import largely from the adjacent State of Washington, although there is still much uncultivated land in that valley which could be brought into as high a state of perfection as that owned by Mr. Covert.

This is simply an example of what can be done in numberless places in British Columbia. All through the Province there are valleys containing land of the most fertile character, which is awaiting the labour of the husbandman to yield its fruits for the consumption of the people. In almost all cases where this land is found, the conditions exist for placing the productions of the soil on the market promptly and inexpensively, and the market is one which is rapidly becoming greater and more assured. It is a matter of regret, almost of reproach, that so many of the inhabitants of the Province who are now earning a bare subsistence, in some cases a precarious one, in the cities and towns, as employees in the various manufacturing industries, should not have the enterprise to locate upon these unoccupied lands, where they could very quickly acquire for themselves homes and competencies and assist materially in developing the native resources of the country.

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FALLS, KANAKA CREEK, MAPLE RIDGE.





RANCH, LANDSOWNE, SPALLUMCHEEN.



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LOWER MAINLAND.

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The Lower Mainland, except the delta lands formed by the streams flowing into the sea, is for the most part heavily wooded with the Douglas fir, red cedar, poplar and birch previously mentioned, with the additions of another spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), balsam fir (*Abies grandis*), hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*), large-leaved maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), vine maple (*A. circinnatum*), red alder (*Alnus rubra*), and some others. The high lands are generally wooded with Douglas fir and hemlock, growing to an enormous size and consequently very expensive to clear. The soil on such tracts is usually a red, gravelly loam, with a gravel subsoil, and is eminently fitted for the production of such fruits as apples and cherries, and of leguminous crops, especially red clover. On the low lands (not delta lands) the other trees I mention appear. Those parts overgrown with cedar and spruce (always of large growth) are naturally expensive to clear, and draining is indispensable. The top soil is mainly composed of decayed vegetable matter, rich in nitrogen, and yielding enormous crops of roots and cereals. This land is not recommended for apples and cherries, but pears and plums do well on it. Responding readily to the husbandman's call for fodders, it is, above all, fitted for dairying. The equable climate and the luxuriance of growth of fodder plants render this portion of the Province an ideal dairying country, and, as a natural consequence, the industry has been prosecuted to some extent, but not nearly to the extent that the facilities afford, nor in proportion to the demand. This is the one industry, above all others, that this part of the Province is best suited for, and without doubt the most profitable, if conducted as it should be. Cheese is not manufactured, but the production of milk for the supply of the cities in the neighbourhood is a large and increasing branch of the dairying industry.

Accessory to dairying is the production of swine, which also is carried on with considerable success, but not on a sufficiently extensive scale to meet the demand for this class of live stock. The one drawback is the liking the pigs have for the salmon which annually ascend the streams and die in myriads at the headwaters in the autumn; pigs, therefore, at such times, must be kept away from the temptation. In the Fraser Valley proper the depredations of predatory animals are not of a serious character, and, therefore, the production of pigs and sheep is not materially affected by that cause. Further north, however, along the Coast, the conditions are not so favourable. The favourable conditions generally existing in this part of the Province for the prosecution of this profitable industry at once bring home the realisation that it is capable of great expansion.

The delta lands form a very large proportion of the cultivable portion of the Province, and inasmuch as they are purely alluvial deposit of great depth, it can well be understood that their fertility is practically inexhaustible. Lying low, as they do, the chief expense attached to bringing them under cultivation is the necessity of dyking the land against floods which occur about the end of May, when the warmth of the sun melts the snow on the lofty mountains of the Interior. This description of land is naturally covered with a heavy growth of grass and sedge, affording rich pasture during the summer and making excellent hay for the winter. The Valley of the Fraser, from Hope to the mouth, a distance of about 100 miles, and of varying breadth, has an enormous quantity of this description of land, the largest areas being Chilliwack, Matsqui, Pitt River, Lulu and Sea Islands, and Delta.

Whilst this section cannot generally be classed as a sheep country, on account of the dense forests along the Coast line, those parts of the Fraser Valley where there is a sufficiency of cleared land, such as the Delta, Chilliwack, etc., the production of some choice sheep is most successfully carried on, sheep which have taken high prizes at agricultural shows and which have excited the admiration of experts. The raising of poultry, except of geese and ducks, is not prosecuted in this part very extensively. In the matter of cereals, oats easily take first rank, the rich lands ensuring large returns and the local markets being always good for this class of grain. Wheat produces heavily, but the conditions naturally prevent its production on a large scale, the land being capable of being put to a much more profitable use. Barley, rye, peas and Indian corn are grown in some quantity. Indian corn, peas and oats mixed, as well as clover, are grown chiefly for ensilage, which is here carried on more extensively and in

a more systematic manner than elsewhere. Roots, as a matter of course, produce most abundantly, especially in the lines of dairy foods, such as mangolds, beets, carrots and turnips. Grasses also and clovers, if given a modicum of chance, repay the agriculturist by immense returns, frequently giving yields as high as four tons of cured hay to the acre. Hops of a superior quality are produced at several points, and command a price equal to the product of Kent in the London market. Large quantities of fruit are grown, principally apples and plums, and sent to the markets of the North-West and Manitoba. Prunes are also being produced in increasing quantities.

The average temperature for six months, April to September, inclusive, in the Fraser Valley ranges from 56.1 to 61.2. Highest temperature during the year 1900 was 90° in July; lowest, 9° in February. Average rainfall during the six months, April to September, inclusive, at different points: Lowest, 16.64 inches; highest, 26.62 inches. Average annual rainfall at different points: Lowest, 48.64 inches; highest, 77.92 inches.

### Bella Coola.

The following notes regarding Bella Coola, a settlement on Bentinck Arm, about latitude 52° 20' N., are furnished by Mr. C. W. D. Clifford, M.P.P. He says that there are over 80,000 acres of agricultural land in the valley. It is wooded for the most part; some portions are, however, comparatively clear. The soil and climate are exceedingly favourable for fruits of all kinds, especially apples and cherries. The Gravenstein apple produced there, Mr. Clifford declares to be the very best he has ever seen; and this remark applies equally to potatoes. There are probably 250 settlers, mostly Norwegians, who have taken up land for about 26 miles up the valley. The climate is exceedingly mild, 5° above zero being the coldest. There are no summer frosts (say from the 1st of April to the 15th of October). The rainfall is sufficient for the production of crops, but not excessive. The snowfall is sometimes as much as two feet, and occurs usually in December and January. The valley is from one-half to two and a half miles wide, well watered and covered with Douglas fir, poplar, spruce, birch and alder. The greatest drawbacks at the present time are the facilities for transporting produce to the markets, there being no regular means of conveyance, and, as a consequence, the production is limited to the wants of the residents. A road now being constructed to the salt-water landing will give access to the various mines and sea-coast markets.

*(From the Colonist, 15th November, 1901.)*

The apples which Mr. Clifford, M.P.P., brought down from Bella Coola are better than pages of matter describing the agricultural possibilities of that part of the Province. But as they cannot be sent around for every one to see, we may add that those shown to the Colonist were splendid specimens of the Gravenstein, large, firm, well-coloured and highly flavoured. There will be a market in this Province and the Yukon for all the apples of this kind that can possibly be grown in Bella Coola, even if the whole 80,000 acres that Mr. Clifford describes as magnificent were planted to fruit. The Bella Coola Valley does not depend upon its arable land only for prosperity. Behind the tillable area are wide extents of pasture, although they may not be very near the farming district. In the mountains of the neighbourhood are promising indications of minerals. In short, this section of British Columbia would probably, if good means of communication were provided, become the seat of a thriving population which would number at least as many people as now live in the City of Victoria.

*(Times, 14th November, 1901.)*

The Government is constructing a bridge at Bella Coola to the north side, where there is a wharf and where the Government has a townsite reserve of 160 acres. This townsite, it is hoped, will be put on the market. The proceeds from such a sale would more than pay for the road which is being built. The bridge will cost about \$4,000. A road has been almost completed from salt water up through the district for a distance of about 22 miles. There are two good schools in the district, one four or five miles from Bella Coola, and the other about 13 miles from Bella Coola, the attendance at which is about 22 pupils daily during the winter. There are about 250 whites at Bella Coola, most of them being Norwegians.

## Excerpts from Report of Government Surveys in the Bella Coola Valley.

The highest water, as a rule, occurs there during June and July and the latter part of September, while the lowest occurs during the winter months.

The valley in the main will run from one to three miles wide, and the soil consists of a light, sandy loam a few inches in depth, covering a very rich loam, making the finest soil for root crops. This was proved to us later on in the summer by the samples of potatoes and other vegetables obtained from Mr. Clayton and the Indians. The soil in the valley, though apparently a light, sandy loam, is very productive.

All along the Coast Bella Coola is noted for its potatoes, and certainly those grown by Mr. Clayton and the Indians are very fine, as also are all root crops. Fruit and berries grow in profusion at the mouth of the river, and if the growth of wild berries is a sign that the valley will produce well, then the production is an assured fact, for wild gooseberries, currants, high-bush cranberries and huckleberries are very plentiful in their season.

Part of the soil in the valley is gravelly, especially where the mountains close in towards the river. Still, a good portion of this could be brought under cultivation for the production of fruit. The larger portion of the best agricultural land is easily cleared, the timber on this land being light and readily removed.

### TIMBER.

The valley in many places is covered with a dense growth of small, thickly-tangled underbrush, such as salmonberry, gooseberry, elderberry, hardhack, willow and crabapple. Of the large timbers along the river we find: Cottonwood, alder, both red and common cedar, and spruce. The cottonwood and cedar grow to an enormous size, the former often reaching 6 and 7 feet in diameter, the latter as much as 10 and 12 feet in diameter. The cedar is, as a rule, much knotted and twisted. All along the valley we find quantities of Douglas fir, but more especially along the foot of the mountains and on the benches of some of the streams flowing into the river.

### FISH AND GAME.

Spring and coho salmon run in quantities up the river, but the sockeye are not very plentiful. Trout also run in the spring. The principal run of fish is what is known as the "humpback" salmon. The waters literally teem with them during the summer months. Deer are very scarce in the valley: in fact, are very seldom seen. Bear, both black, brown and grizzly, are very plentiful; also marten, and in the lakes at the head of the tributary streams are great quantities of beaver. Mountain goat are numerous on the mountains. In the flats and sloughs, duck, geese and grouse are to be had in numbers.

## Gardner Inlet,

On the north-west coast of the Mainland, about 500 miles north of Victoria. A description of the country by Mr. H. H. Newill, from notes made during a survey for railway purposes in 1901, under Mr. J. H. Gray, C.E. :—

### 'KITIMAT TO KITSILAS (ACROSS COUNTRY).

"The abrupt and broken scenery of Gardner Inlet and Douglas Channel changes somewhat as the steamer enters Kitimat Arm. The parallel mountain ranges on either side have here a more regular and gentler slope, though still rugged, with snowy peaks and icy hollows even in July.

"The Indian village of Kitimat—a sub-mining record station—lies on the eastern shore of Kitimat Arm, some three miles southward of the point where the Kitimat River empties itself. From this point the arm, narrowing considerably, runs a few miles to its extremity in a north-east direction.

"To the west of the river mouth, and at the back of a wide, shallow bay, lies a considerable area of good timbered flat land, probably river wash. Here the soil, for a depth of several feet, is a rich silt dumped on a gravelly subsoil. The most accessible portion of this



land has been taken up by a rancher named Anderson. He has built himself a log house for living in, a log store and outhouses, and has proved the capability of the soil for growing vegetables and cereals: and several home-bred horses and a small herd of cattle seem to thrive well in his meadows. He has a machine mower at work, much to the astonishment of the local Indians. A little judicious dyking in this neighbourhood would add a large acreage of cultivable land.

"It was from a point some four miles south-west from Anderson's ranch (measuring round the curve of the bay, and down the west shore of the arm) that our expedition started. Our landing place was a rough, boulder and log-strewn, shingly beach, from which the mountain side rose steeply, covered thickly with spruce, hemlock and cedar bush. The view from here was picturesque. Eastward, across the inlet (here about a mile and a half wide), the little village of Kitimat spread along the shore, showing whitely against a dark background of towering mountains, capped by snowy heights; southward, the sea entrance to the arm was shut out by rugged and lofty bush-covered islands; and to the north, the reedy bay curved eastward to a prominent point, which just hid the foaming debouchment of the Kitimat River.

"Skirting the bay aforesaid, we soon left the base of the mountains and passed into an extensive flat country, full of swamps and creeks, tangled bush and devil's clubs. The waters of one creek where we drank tasted strongly of sulphur, and the gravelly beds of nearly all were worth a prospector's attention. A number of shallow water-courses, running nearly parallel to one another, seemed to be but branches of a creek of considerable size flowing from the westerly mountains, and finally reaching Kitimat Arm in numerous streams, which could be traced at low tide spreading across the exposed mud and sandy bottom of the shallow bay we had skirted. Beaver dams were numerous, and in this neighbourhood we found ourselves confronted by one which must have measured the best part of a mile in length. Moss grew everywhere, and in many varieties, including the so-called staghorn.

"Hemlock, spruce, balsam and cedar shaded huckleberry bushes and other berries, some red like large haws, others black and glossy like beads. Alders and skunk cabbage were in their element in the swampier ground, with crab-apples here and there, and devil's clubs with their pretty clusters of red berries, their poisonous prickles and clinging limbs everywhere. Enormous quantities of blue huckleberries were ripening.

"Our way was soon barred by a long, lofty hill spur, which stretched nearly at right angles from the mountains to the river. Rounding this at the base of an immense gravel slide, we came to a bend of the Kitimat River, some three miles north from Anderson's. We were now fairly in the Kitimat Valley. The river, either way, on account of its tortuous course, was soon lost to view. Its current was rapid and its stream full, washing mud banks five to fifteen feet in height, and two to three hundred feet apart. We soon found it difficult at times to know whether we were standing on a bank or an island of this river, so numerous were its sloughs here and throughout the valley. A low-lying bench of thick bush intervened between the river and the opposite mountain ranges, which ran in a general direction parallel to it. This feature also appertained on our side (the right bank) of the river. Beyond the gravel slide the high ground rapidly fell back again, so that the river bench extended in width three and four or more miles in places before it touched the foothills. Spruce and hemlock were the principal timber trees. The soil was generally a dark, clayey loam. This country, owing to its uniformity of growth and natural features, was the easiest place in the world to get 'turned round' in.

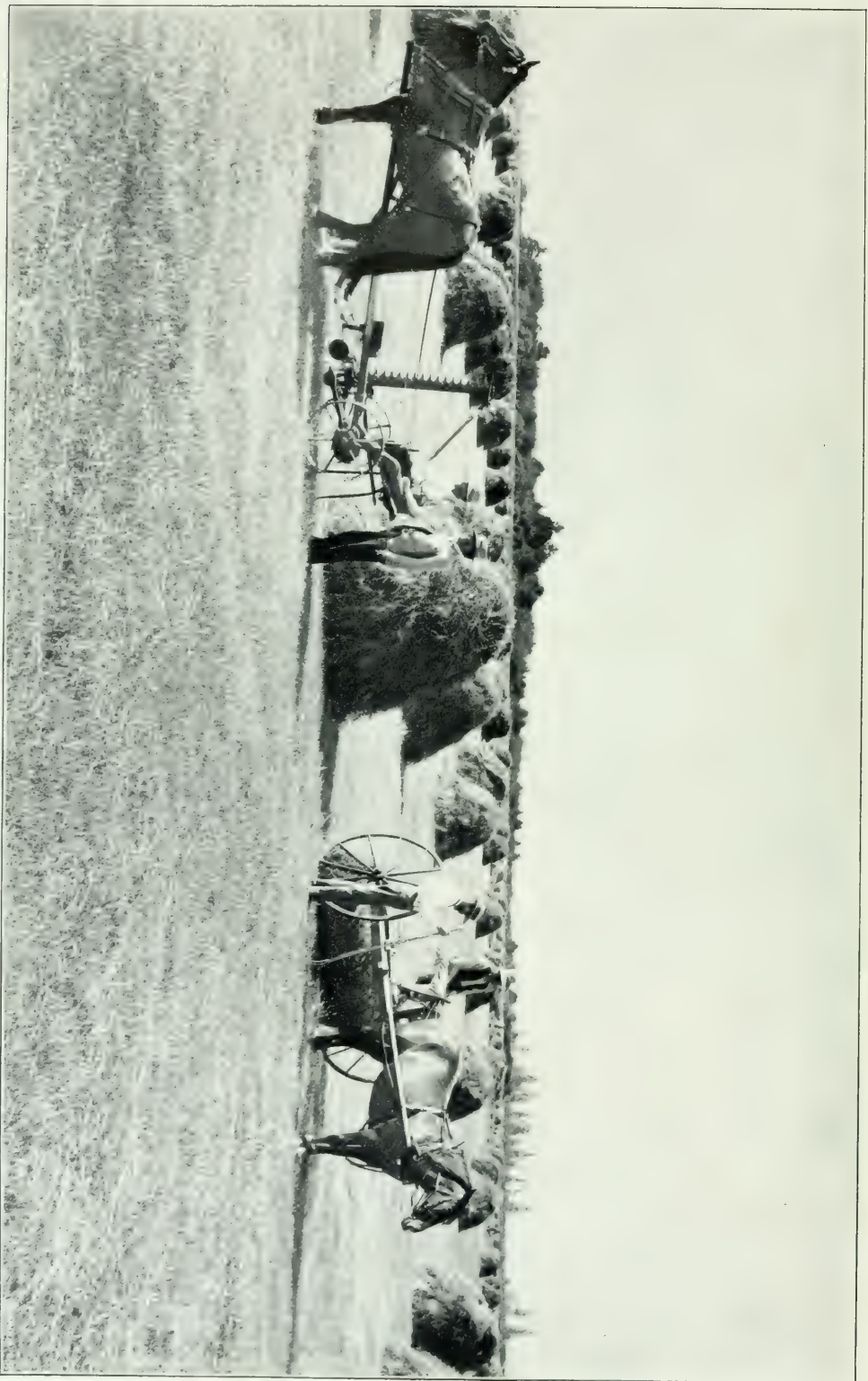
"We saw but little game. Grouse were scarce and shy. Bear signs, however, were numerous, and we evidently interrupted many an ursian feast of salmon. Salmon, indeed, were a positive nuisance, spawning and dying in the shallowest creeks until the very atmosphere stank of them. They were of the 'hunch-back' species. We caught a few trout in the Kitimat, and saw a straggler here and there in a clear creek. Hornets and yellow-jackets, however, provided us with some excitement, and, especially in the moist weather (which was nearly always), sand flies and mosquitoes lived their inglorious days pretty actively. Sand-flies swarmed in millions, and were the worst pests we had to contend with. The mosquitoes were large and fairly numerous, but rather slow and lazy. Big, black 'bull' flies were extraordinarily quick to bite, and generally caused inflammation.

"With regard to weather, we were fairly lucky. Generally speaking, when the wind blew from the coast, rain was incessant, but during intervals, when it blew from inland, the weather was fine and sunny, and the hotter the day the colder the night. The pity of it was



SPALLUMCHEEN VALLEY.





HAY FIELD, DELTA.



that the fine weather intervals did not last long enough. If the country could only have had time to dry up properly, camping out would have been a delight.

"Nearing the Widena Valley, we touched the foothills again, and occasional outcrops of rock granites and diorites showed the changing character of the country. The soil for the most part was a fertile mould, carpeted with moss. Cranberry and alder swamps were a feature: also patches of bog-land covered with moss three feet in thickness, springy to walk on, and tenacious of its hold. Deep water-holes gaped wherever this bog surface was broken.

"The Widena River, flowing in an easterly direction, empties into the Kitimat about ten miles up-stream—an island being formed at the junction of the two rivers. Like the Kitimat, the Widena is also a river of many islands, formed by a bewildering number of sloughs. It is navigable for two or three miles by canoes, but log-jams are numerous. The bush along the banks is thick and tangled, and difficult to penetrate, but the high bush behind was fairly open, and much of it looked promising land for agriculture. Cottonwood and maple trees now began to put in an appearance, and red—also some yellow—cedar became more plentiful. In some of the swamps we found a sort of fly-plant with petals tipped by a sticky substance. It was a tiny plant growing not more than a couple of inches above ground, and we noticed that flies instinctively avoided it. Little birds like wrens hopping about in the bush were so tame as to come within arm's length. Grouse, also jays, owls, and a few hawks and eagles, made a scanty show of bird life. Squirrels darted up and down the trees, the stems of many of which were bored, evidently by woodpeckers—but we rarely heard them. We came across a good many holes where bears had been scratching out bees' nests.

"Landmarks here were the peaks of a lofty mountain range with snow-covered valleys, and a few small glaciers to the west. Eastward, two prominent, round-topped mountains stood out boldly on the other side of the Kitimat. One of these (the more northern one) still bore traces of snow (in August), and both rose somewhat steeply from the river bank. They were summits of the mountain range which bounded the Kitimat Valley, eastward. At no point in this country, however, could we get anything like a complete view.

"Between the Widena River and Cecil Creek—some nine miles further north—numerous streams crossed our path, emptying themselves into one or other of these rivers. The flat ground was mostly swampy, but the foothills intruded, closing in towards the river. The Kitimat Valley, at one time six or seven miles in width, here narrowed considerably. The whole country was rising perceptibly in elevation. Up in this higher country the blue huckleberries, so common hitherto, gave place mostly to the red species. Cranberries became increasingly plentiful, both the 'bush' and the 'ground' varieties. Balsam was abundant, growing in dense groves with sparse undergrowth. Of birds we saw only a few crows, an eagle or two, and here and there a fool-hen or blue grouse. Salmon, of course, were all over the place: every creek was foul with their rotting carcasses. Bear signs continued all round. An old she-bear and her cub were shot near the mouth of Cecil Creek. Bright-coloured lichens, here and throughout our journey, had assumed many curious and beautiful forms.

"In the valleys of the Widena River and Cecil Creek together there must be many thousands of acres of valuable agricultural land, not too difficult to clear. Potatoes in especial, but probably also oats and barley, might be prolific crops.

"And now, still travelling northward, we traversed a country entirely cut up by abrupt and rocky foothills and deep, narrow creeks, some containing water, but more dry. The soil here was distinctly clayey. The bush was not difficult to travel through. A feature of it was an abundance of splendid straight-limbed cedar. The gradually rising ground was lifting to a plateau, the south-eastern corner of which rose abruptly from near the head of navigation on the Kitimat River. The course of that river, which, from its source to this point, had been flowing roughly east to west, here makes a great bend and takes a wider way nearly north and south towards Kitimat Arm. As we approached the plateau water became scarce. Just on the edge of it we came on a 'cached' wooden sleigh, and a little further on found a blazed tree, and a notice that seven feet of snow had lain around it in January, 1900.

"From the edge of the plateau we obtained a fair view down the valley. Hundreds of feet below we could hear the roaring river, but could not actually see it, although we could trace its course by the fresher foliage for many miles. Now an encroaching hill-spur would abruptly turn its course: anon, a wide plain would open out before it and its interminable sloughs. Wherever the eye ranged it met a dark mass of forest spreading even to the snow-covered mountain heights, and far away in the distance the river's silvery gleam became distinguishable, winding through the dark foliage, now in sight, now out of sight, until finally lost to view behind the bluff gravel slide where we had first beheld it.

"The country on the plateau was comparatively open. The soil was a brown, gravelly loam, with much moss on its surface. It supported a scanty growth of underbrush, but large timber. There were no great outcrops of rock, but quantities of what looked like glacier-worn pebbles were to be seen embedded in the roots of the trees wherever exposed. The elevation here was over 600 feet, and the distance from our starting point about 25 miles.

"We did not long continue on the plateau, but took the downward slope northerly towards the lakes. Here the bush was good land, with considerable undergrowth. The soil was a dark, friable loam over clay. Much of this country would be fairly valuable, both in timber or for cultivation. There were no evidences of mineral.

"Round Lake (some four miles from the divide) lies in a cup-like hollow in the mountains amidst thick bush. It is perhaps three-quarters of a mile across, and, as its name suggests, nearly circular. The water was warm and pleasant to bathe in. The banks were mostly bristling with half-sunken snags, but at the outflow of a little swampy creek in one corner masses of reeds grew in shallow water. These reeds were fine, spear-like growths, pale green, and they readily cut the hand if pressed or caught up.

"Passing round to the south and east of this lake, we struck an essentially granite country, and worked our way along rocky side-hills, which in places were simply dense thickets of pine or hemlock. On the flat, however, the timber was large and the growth fairly open. Hemlock and spruce were prominent, but cedar more so. Many towering rock bluffs gave us fine views over the extensive Lake Lakelse, which we were now skirting on its eastern side. Its north east corner, where we presently struck it, was about 40 miles from our starting point.

"Viewing the lake from this point, Williams Creek entered it to our right (its northern extremity), with sandy bars. Snow-capped mountains towered two or three miles away on its opposite (western) shore. At the back of these flowed the Skeena River. To our left (southward) the lake stretched some eight miles in a long, sheeny waterway, and near its further end the river of the same name flowed outward. This Lakelse or Trout River eventually finds its way round the mountains towards the Skeena, into which it empties. Its valley was noticeable as a dip in the heavy mountains to the south-west. A feature of this outlook was a markedly precipitous valley, cleft deep in the mountains round southward. It was all a continuous mass of forest at every height. Snow lay piled in hollows and on some few slopes. The shore of the lake was very shallow, with patches of thin-grown reeds. Ducks and geese were very plentiful; grouse were also to be had. Had the weather been fine this might have been a charming spot; as it was, everything was rotting and sodden. Bear were all over this country, and occasionally we found traces of caribou or mountain goat. Skunks were a species of animal whose presence we did not greatly appreciate.

"The country along this, the north, side of Lake Lakelse basin was exceedingly rough and broken. The bottom lands were swampy in places, but generally contained good alluvial soil (somewhat sandy), with a moderate growth of underbrush beneath large timber—hemlock, spruce, cottonwood, maple, birch and cedar. The cedars, especially, in this region and throughout the upper part of the Kitimat Valley and its northern dividing plateau, were of exceptionally fine growth, and would be of great commercial value if in touch with a market. We must have passed through tens of thousands of acres, in every acre of which might be counted one to two dozen fine straight cedar stems, four to eight feet through at the butt, and with a spring of 80 to 100 feet clean without a limb. The surface ground was mossy, with growth of ferns and devil's clubs, also cranberry bush, and was very much encumbered with fallen logs. The hill sides, as before in this basin, were difficult to travel, being rocky and precipitous, and more or less densely thicketed.

"The summit, or pass, from this basin to the Skeena Valley, lying at an elevation of 700 feet, crossed the lower extremity of a long, narrow plateau, where it was abruptly terminated by contact with the precipitous mountain ranges to the east. An enormous white rock bluff rising sheer some 2,000 feet above our heads, with yawning chasms and clefts in which a few trees struggled for existence, was one of many fine sights that met us. The abounding rock was chiefly granite, with some diorites, limestone and quartz, and 'float' that we picked up in some of the numerous creeks was mineralized. A large proportion of the ground here was burnt and overgrown with fire bush. The little black flies that seem to breed in charred tree stems were a positive curse. Considerable areas of timber, too, were dead or dying, for no immediately apparent cause; their barren stems bore no marks of fire. From the immense numbers of leech-like inch worms, or measuring worms, so called, that we found upon them, we came to the conclusion that these worms must have been instrumental in eating off the foliage, or in some way killing the trees.



"Ten miles from the north-east corner of the lake, by the circuitous route we took (but little more than half that distance in a direct line), we obtained our first view of the Skeena River. We had worked round the edge of a rugged mountain spur: steep and rocky side hills rose above us; a swamp spread below, and beyond it the river benches, with the livid line of green of the river banks, and beyond again an autumn-tinted range of hills—yellow, green and brown—with the snowy heights of further mountain ranges behind. As we descended the Skeena valley, poplars, alder and birches made up no small percentage of the forest growth, and the leaves of these, yellowing in their decay, made a bright and cheerful contrast with the sombre verdure of hemlock and spruce.

"It was now the latter part of October, and with shortening days and frosty nights winter made its approach felt. From time to time flights of little lark-like 'snow-birds' flitted on their southward journey—heralds of the snow. The fine days at this period were beautiful, with a brisk, sharp atmosphere, warm sunshine, and lovely, clear blue skies. On the other hand, the wet days were correspondingly wet and miserable.

"The slope of the valley took us down in well-defined benches to the river itself, which we struck at Dave Stewart's ferry, and still following up its left bank, and crossing in succession Copper River and Gold Creek, we arrived at our destination—Kitsilas Canyon. There, at the telegraph station and steamer landing, we once more came into touch with civilization, having accomplished some 62 miles of pretty rough travelling.

"Copper River is a wide, swift-flowing stream, draining what seemed to be a considerable valley. The bar formed at its entrance to the Skeena is a wide sand and shingle flat, very pretty, with the variegated foliage along its banks stretching in well-defined lines edging the partly moss-grown boulders and stones of the beach.

"Gold Creek is a clear, rocky stream rarely more than three feet deep, but with a mean and treacherous current. Its valley comes to a narrow neck at the Skeena, but runs back extensively, widening out in the far distance. A newly-made waggon road crosses it. This, when completed, will lead from Singlehurst's new wharf on the Skeena up to his mines in the mountains, some six or seven miles. In the creeks and along the river banks about here we picked up much quartz and conglomerate 'float,' also serpentines, nearly every specimen mineralized with iron or traces of copper, and looking a likely enough proposition for gold, but we were unable to do much prospecting.

"Most of the better riverside lands were Indian reservations, and Indian cabins and graves were numerous on the river banks. Many areas here could be easily cleared and might be valuable for cultivation. Potatoes, cabbage and other vegetables simply grew to riot in Stewart's garden, a few miles down stream.

"Besides the ubiquitous hemlock, spruce and cedar, the prevalent trees were small birches, bull pine, alder, cottonwood, maple, willows and some hazel. Rabbits, bear and grouse were numerous, and goats up in the mountains.

"Mounting the river benches behind us, timbered side-hills and rock bluffs climbed to steep and rugged mountains, 1,500 to 2,000 feet high. These are now being prospected to some extent, with very promising results. On the opposite side of the river a lofty peaked mountain loomed up some 3,000 feet, with deep clefts and rocky ravines, and snow lying perennially in its crevices. Here, where the mountains thus press together, is formed the narrow canyon where the curbed waters of the river boil and eddy as they sweep imperiously through the two or three channels they have cut, apparently, out of the solid rock. Here, too, with just a distant glimpse of snow-covered ranges in the far interior, our journey ended.



## VANCOUVER, QUEEN CHARLOTTE AND OTHER ISLANDS.

The length of the former is about 280 miles, of the Queen Charlotte group about 180 miles, and the many smaller islands of various sizes. Viewed from the deck of a steamer, they all present a rugged and unpromising appearance, but this is quickly changed on closer acquaintance, and many a valley is soon discovered on investigation. The timber is very similar to that of the Lower Mainland, with the addition of the oak (*Quercus Garryana*), which occurs in patches on the southern end of Vancouver Island and for about 150 miles north, and on the Gulf Islands. The undergrowth is not as dense as it is on the Lower Mainland, rendering the problem of clearing more easy of solution. The character of the soil on the ridges is a gravelly loam, good for leguminous crops and for fruits, if kept well cultivated and mulched. The dry, hot hillsides produce fine grapes, peaches and such fruits when tried, but they are not much cultivated, and the production is, therefore, small. There are numerous swamps, many of them of considerable extent, sometimes open or covered with buckbrush (*Spiraea Douglasii*), and sometimes with a larger growth, generally crab (*Pirus rivularis*), none of which is difficult to clear, and when drained the land is very fertile. The land covered with oak trees is a fine black loam, and the trees not being close together, it is easily brought into cultivation, and produces almost any crop or fruit of these latitudes. The bottoms are generally covered with a thick growth of alder and willow, which is easily cleared. The delta lands of the different streams form a considerable portion of the cultivable land, and are similar to those previously described on the Mainland.

The general characteristics of the larger islands are high mountain ranges in the interior, which form innumerable lakes in the depressions, from which flow numerous streams to the sea. The valleys of these streams, the delta lands formed by them and the large tracts of thickly-wooded level country, are all available for agricultural purposes, the higher mountainous country affording, in many places, good summer pasture for stock. Practically, only the Gulf Islands and the east coast of Vancouver Island, from its southern end for about 150 miles, may be said to be settled. The west coast, cut up by innumerable fiords with scenery of unsurpassed beauty: the northern part, with the exception of Quatsino and Cape Scott, where there are colonies of Scandinavians, and all of Queen Charlotte Islands, are sparsely inhabited by traders, miners, the aborigines and a few tillers of the soil.

The average temperature for six months, April to September, inclusive, is at the southern extremity 55.2°, and 150 miles to the northward 55.27°. Average rainfall during the same period, 7.13 inches and 9.12 inches respectively. Highest temperature during 1900, 79.6° at the southern extremity in July, and 88° in July at the other point. Lowest temperature, 18° and 14° in November, respectively. Average annual rainfall, 31.61 inches: average annual snowfall, 16.1 inches.

The smaller islands are well adapted for sheep, the short herbage on the open hillsides affording suitable pasture. The entire absence of predatory animals being quite exceptional, and the principal markets being all accessible by water, the industry is carried on more extensively and with more profit in these parts than elsewhere in the Province.

In the unsettled parts of the Island of Vancouver the panther, so-called, really the puma (*Felis concolor*), the black bear (*Ursus Americanus*), and wolf (*Canis occidentalis*) abound, and are naturally attracted by the presence of sheep, pigs, &c., to the settled portions, rendering the profitable production of these animals more precarious than on the smaller islands. Nevertheless, with a modicum of care and trouble, they can be, and are, profitably produced, and give large returns to those farmers who carry on the industry with circumspection.

Cattle, in the equable climate of these islands, also give a generous return for the care bestowed upon them, and dairying, now carried on in the line of butter-making both by creameries and individuals, is capable of great expansion. The lucrativeness, however, of winter dairying is by no means fully realised, inasmuch as but little provision is made for winter feeding, in the shape of ensilage, roots, &c. During the months of April, May, June



COWICHAN RIVER.



CAMPING ON THE RIVER.





INNER-CHI.

LOADING LARGE TIMBER ON SAILING SHIPS, BRUNETTE MILLS, NEW WESTMINSTER.



and July, the luxuriant growth of wild vetch, clover and grasses afford unlimited food for dairy cattle, and during that period butter is at the lowest, only the very best creamery and the product of one or two well-known private manufacturers fetching remunerative prices. After July, with the exception of some favoured localities, the pastures get so dried up that feeding to some extent with succulent food must be resorted to, and it is then that butter begins to rise in price until the highest point is reached.

The swine industry is not prosecuted to the extent that its importance demands. The same may be said of poultry, although the natural advantages for its production are probably greater than in any other portion of the Province. This is especially true as regards fowls and turkeys in the high, dry, open country, which, on account of its aridity, is not of great value for any other pursuit.

Hops are successfully produced in the district of Saanich, and probably would succeed equally well elsewhere. Apples, pears, plums and cherries do well in most of the settled districts, more particularly pears and plums. Root crops produce largely in all the lower portions and alluvial bottoms. Wheat is not produced to any extent. Oats are grown extensively, and some peas, barley and rye. The principal grass grown here, as elsewhere, is timothy; clover and other leguminous plants grow naturally, so it goes without saying that the cultivation of these fodders is marked with success.

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From an excellent little brochure descriptive of the Cowichan District the following is quoted:

### “Farming in Cowichan.

“The farming areas in Cowichan are as yet small in comparison with the unbroken forest which extends practically all over Vancouver Island; but the land, when cleared, is fertile, and prices generally are good. By the aid of improved methods of clearing, it is now possible to clear land at reasonable figures. Mixed farming is the general practice, though dairying is the principal business. A co-operative creamery at Duncan has now been in existence about six years, and turned out last year 71,111 pounds of butter, sold at an average price of 27½ cents per pound. The farmer received this, less a charge of about 3 cents for making and selling.

“The Klondike trade and the new home markets, together with the general improvement in trade, have increased prices all round for farm products, and with the constantly increasing population of British Columbia and the North-West, they are not likely to go lower to any extent.

“Dairying, fruit-growing and the care of sheep, swine and poultry—in short, intensive farming—is the practice recommended here.”

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### “Life in Cowichan.

“BY CLIVE PHILLIPS-WOLLEY.

“To the student of human nature, British Columbia presents a curious anomaly. A very large proportion of those who migrate to this colony come for greater freedom and an outdoor life at an expense less than such a life would entail at home; and yet, when they arrive here, most of them crowd into the towns. Country houses in the vicinity of Victoria are almost unknown. The Cowichan or Duncan District contains most of the exceptions to this rule. It is the district par excellence of leisurely country life in British Columbia.

“A great many people will tell you that farming does not pay on Vancouver Island, and if you have to clear the land to be farmed, I think there is some truth in it; and yet we can show substantial farmers who started without capital. The truth is that farming at a profit requires experience and hard work; perhaps the two things are not always found in combination. A very large number of our farmers were never brought up to farm. Even if you can buy bush land at \$1 an acre, it may cost you \$100 to clear it; and at present farm labour costs from \$10 to \$15 per month and board, if it is Japanese, and \$20 and board if it is white. But you can buy cleared land for less than it cost to clear it, and off such land you can make a good living—perhaps even a small income—and, by adopting the simple habits of your

neighbours, you can get more fun, sport and good living here for \$1,000 per annum than you can get for £1,000 per annum in the Old Country. This is essentially the right country for men with pensions, with small incomes and country tastes. An Indian can live here on nothing but the bounty of nature; a white man on the islands of the Gulf can live here for very little more.

"I know a family, consisting of two English ladies and a child, who built themselves a house and cultivated a small garden upon one of the loveliest of our islands. They had their piano and their boat, sea bathing, fishing and gardening; and their first year's expenses for all three, exclusive of their initial outlay, was £60, and for this they lived well.

"Let us go a step higher in the scale of expenditure. You can buy in the Duncan District choice land, upon the sea or upon a lake, one-half cleared and one-half bush, for \$50 an acre. You can build a good house of the bungalow type, lined with choice wood, prettily finished, and having, say, two sitting-rooms, four bed-rooms, bath-room, kitchen, etc., for \$2,000 (£400). For £200 you can buy 20 acres of land, of which at least 10 will be cleared. You can put a house upon it for another \$2,000 (£400), and buy yourself two cows, a horse and buggy for another \$300 (£60); and for another £140 you should be able to put in a good orchard and garden, make and stock a poultry yard, buy a boat, and perhaps a few sheep.

"For £1,000 you have your home equipped in the Duncan District, and if you want to increase your holding by the work of your own hands or the expenditure of small sums of money as you make or save them, there is plenty of good land in the bush to be cleared.

"As to the life. In the Duncan District there is a very large element of English settlers, including naval and military men, pensioned Indian civil servants, and gentlemen's younger sons. The amusements are very much those of English country life, only that *they cost you nothing*.

"There are towns now in British Columbia where people try to live as they think that people live in England—where a dinner without champagne is not what it should be, and dresses good enough for Hurlingham are worn at little scratch cricket matches. They do not do these things in the country districts. The dress here is simple; no one dreams of any better drink than beer or whiskey and soda; the entertainments, small dances, picnics, bathing parties, etc., replace champagne with high spirits, and cost next to nothing. If you are a decent fellow, it does not matter twopence what your financial standing may be.

"As to sport. The fishing in the district is excellent. At Cowichan Lake, in the early part of this year, I believe that the average was about 25 trout to the boat, running from 1 to 2 pounds. This was with a fly. In the summer, with a spoon, men get some very large baskets of two-pounders. Capt. Finnis, R. N., caught 255 pounds of trout in three days with fly and spoon. Capt. Salmon, 89 pounds of trout in one day. The Cowichan River sometimes affords excellent sport. In the early spring a big trout, running from 5 to 10 pounds (known as the steelhead), gives good sport to the fly-fisher, and later on there are good runs of sea trout; whilst in the bay, men who care for it can get superb salmon trolling.

"On one of the smaller lakes (two miles from Duncan, where many of the nicest homes are), a resident killed with the dry fly 22 trout weighing 57 pounds, in two evenings' fishing. This is work, however, for the skilled hand.

"Grouse of two kinds used to be plentiful, and in the mountains close to hand there are still a fair number of blue grouse for the hard-working gunner. Seven brace to the gun is the best I have heard of this year. The willow grouse has suffered heavily, disturbed, I believe, in the nesting season by the imported pheasant, which has now become so plentiful as to become a nuisance to the farmers.

"Deer are plentiful, and in the winter season ducks, teal and geese afford capital sport on the coast and in the marshes round the lakes.

"Above all, to the man who can afford it, Duncan offers a charming home within easy reach of really fine wild sport; trolling for the giant salmon of the Campbell River; wapiti shooting beyond Cowichan Lake, and on the West Coast of the Island; or sheep, bear, goat and mule deer on the Mainland—all at points within a few days' easy travel, and all shooting free.

"It would be easy, without exaggeration, to make this a much more alluring picture, but the exquisite scenery must be left to do this, and I understand that this pamphlet aims at telling the simple truth."



### More about British Columbia.

The following is a further quotation from the articles on British Columbia published by the "Colonist," previously alluded to:—

"Graham Island, of the Queen Charlotte Group, is the second island in size in British Columbia. We have approximated its area at 2,000 square miles. There is an extensive lake in the centre connected with the sea at the northern end of the island. Moresby Island is the second of the group in size. It lies south of Graham. Its greatest length is 85 miles, and its greatest width 40, but in places it is not more than 5 miles across from shore to shore. Its outline is so irregular that no close estimate can be made of its area, but it doubtless contains over 1,000 square miles. Both these islands are mountainous, and the same holds good of the smaller members of this group. At the northern end of both Graham and Moresby there are small areas suitable for agriculture or stock-raising, but for the most part the whole group must be classed as non-arable. The climate is very fine. The rainfall is less than on the corresponding latitude on the Mainland, and the greatest cold ever experienced since records have been kept was 8 degrees above zero, Fahr. During the past eight years the thermometer has never gone below 18 degrees. This mild climate is due to the effect of the Japan current. There is some snow every year, and the highest peaks in the interior are snow-capped through the whole twelvemonth.

"The known mineral resources are coal, copper, gold and silver, but only limited prospecting has been done for anything except coal. The latter is found both on Graham and Moresby islands. The ascertained areas are extensive and the quality of the coal is good. Gold has been mined by the Hudson's Bay Company to some extent at Gold Harbour, on Moresby Island. Prospects have been found in numerous other places, but it is only very recently that anything like systematic exploration has been undertaken. While it is too soon to forecast results, it may be said that the outlook is favourable. If any persons desire an almost virgin field for this sort of work, they can find it in the Queen Charlotte group, and the conditions of life there are by no means arduous.

"Except on the highest levels and near the coasts, the islands of this group are well timbered, principally with spruce and cedar. The wood is of good quality.

"Whatever doubt may exist on other points, there is none as to the values of these islands from the standpoint of the fisherman. The most valuable fish found in the adjacent waters is the halibut. They are not large in size, but are excellent in quality. They seem to exist in inexhaustible quantities. They can be taken at any season of the year at some points around the coasts. Salmon are present in all the inlets in incalculable numbers. Codfish are also taken, but not so much is known as to their numbers, as little or no attention has been paid to this fishery. Three factories have been set up for the manufacture of dogfish oil.

"As is the case in most of the islands along the north-west coast, wild berries—namely, huckleberries, cranberries, and luscious and large wild strawberries grow in profusion. There are about 600 Indians on Graham Island, and possibly a hundred white people on all the group.

"Of the smaller islands of British Columbia, Texada attracts the greatest attention. It is situated in the northern part of the Gulf of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the Mainland. It is 30 miles long with an average breadth of 6 miles. It has been described as 'a mass of mineral.' It is known to contain copper, gold and iron in paying quantities, also great deposits of lime and marble. Mining for the three minerals named is being successfully prosecuted. Great attention has recently been directed to this island by the discovery of exceptionally rich free milling quartz in quantity which warrants the institution of stamp-mills.

"The principal scene of mining operations at the present time is near the north-east end of the island, in the vicinity of Stuart Bay, where the town of Van Anda is situated. There is a smelter here. The business of Texada Island is steadily increasing, and it is now safely established as a growing mining centre.

"The island is well timbered and contains a considerable area suitable for agriculture. On the whole, for its area, it would be difficult to find anywhere an island enjoying better advantages than Texada.

"The scores of islands and islets, which lie along the British Columbia coast are almost all mineralised. It is impossible to mention each particularly. On some of them, notably on



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Princess Royal Island, prospecting has been done, but for the most part they are virgin ground. On Princess Royal a very promising copper deposit is now being opened. Almost all the islands are well timbered, and on some of them there is land fit for farming, but excepting on the more southerly, agriculture is not likely to be an important industry. Mining and lumbering will prove the chief sources of wealth. On some of the islands of the Gulf of Georgia farming is now prosecuted successfully, and there is considerable vacant land. The climate of these islands is very agreeable. They are protected by Vancouver Island from the winds from the ocean. The snowfall is light, and there is, in point of fact, no winter as it is understood in the interior of the Continent, or in corresponding latitudes on the Atlantic coast.

"Speaking generally of the Island section of British Columbia, one may say that it contains very many elements of great prosperity. Its genial climate, the ease with which all parts of it can be reached, the existing means of communication, the variety of resources and the large area yet to be explored, combine to make it a portion of Canada that ought to command very much greater attention than it has hitherto received. The indications are that any deficiency in this regard will be supplied in the near future, as the fame of the developed properties becomes more widely extended."

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THRESHING, COMOX.





Ⓟ INNER - CHI.

A FOREST SCENE.



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## LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAND.

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### PRE-EMPTION.

Crown lands, where such a system is practicable, are laid off and surveyed into quadrilateral townships, containing thirty-six sections of one mile square in each.

Any person, being the head of a family, a widow, or single man over the age of eighteen years, and being a British subject, or any alien, upon his making a declaration of his intention to become a British subject, may, for agricultural purposes, record any tract of unoccupied and unreserved Crown lands (not being an Indian settlement) not exceeding three hundred and twenty acres in extent in that portion of the Province situated to the northward and eastward of the Cascade or Coast Range of Mountains, and one hundred and sixty acres in extent in the rest of the Province.

The pre-emptor must, within thirty days after the date of the certificate of record, enter into occupation of the land so recorded.

Occupation means a continuous bonâ fide personal residence of the pre-emptor, or of his family, on the land recorded by him.

Price to be paid by pre-emptors is one dollar per acre, in four annual instalments of twenty-five cents each, the first instalment to be paid in two years from date of record.

### PURCHASE.

Crown land may be purchased in no greater blocks than six hundred and forty acres for each person.

Lands which are suitable for agricultural purposes, or which are capable of being brought under cultivation profitably, or which are wild hay meadow lands, rank as and are considered to be first class lands. Lands which are suitable for agricultural purposes only when artificially irrigated, and which do not contain timber valuable for lumbering purposes, as defined below, rank as and are considered to be second class lands. Mountainous and rocky tracts of land which are wholly unfit for agricultural purposes, and which cannot, under any reasonable conditions, be brought under cultivation, and which do not contain timber suitable for lumbering purposes, as defined below, or hay meadows, rank as and are considered to be third class or pastoral lands. Timber lands (that is, lands which contain milling timber to the average extent of eight thousand feet per acre west of the Cascades, and five thousand feet per acre east of the Cascades, to each one hundred and sixty acres) are not open for sale.

The minimum price of first class lands is five dollars per acre, that of second class lands two dollars and fifty cents per acre, and that of third class lands one dollar per acre: Provided, however, that the Chief Commissioner may, for any reason, increase the price of any lands above the said prices.

### LEASES.

Leases (containing such covenants and conditions as may be thought advisable) of Crown lands may be granted by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for the following purposes:

- (a.) For the purpose of cutting hay thereon, for a term not exceeding ten years:
- (b.) For any purposes whatsoever, except cutting hay as aforesaid, for a term not exceeding twenty-one years.













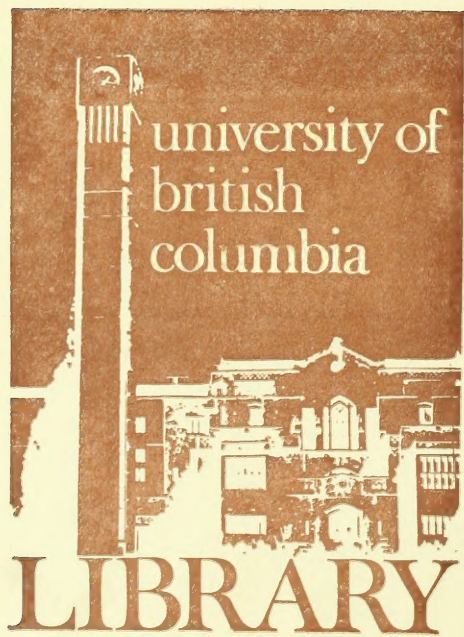






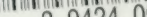






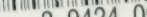
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